

HB 2842 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Action Date: 02/18/25

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 8-0-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Elmer, Hartman, Javadi, McIntire, Nosse, Ruiz, Scharf, Walters

Exc: 1 - Nguyen H

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Taylor Bickel, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/6, 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates \$210,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to distribute to the Marion County Lawyers Charitable Corporation and \$210,000 from the General Fund to distribute to Polk County to support the expansion and establishment of programs providing free child care to people with courthouse or government business and to collect data regarding the programs. The measure declares an emergency and is effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Cost of the program expansion and other sources of program funding
- Existence of similar programs in other counties
- Possible expansion of the program and original pilot program

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment appropriates \$210,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to distribute to Polk County to support a program that provides free drop-in child care for people with courthouse or government business and to collect data regarding the program.

BACKGROUND:

Many jurisdictions provide child care for children of people attending court proceedings, meeting with probation officers, or handling other legal matters. For example, [Multnomah CourtCare](#), established in 2001, is a project of the Multnomah Bar Foundation (MBF) that provides free, drop-in child care for families who have business in court. In 2017, [House Bill 3067](#) authorized Marion and Polk Counties to establish a CourtCare pilot program to provide child care to individuals with business at the courthouse or other governmental offices. The bill appropriated \$200,000 to DAS for distribution to Marion and Polk Counties to implement the CourtCare pilot programs. The pilot program ran for two years.

[The Mid-Valley Court and Community Care](#), formerly CourtCare, relaunched in 2024. The program provides free, drop-in child care to families in Marion and Polk Counties that require short-duration child care to attend court related business.