



# Oregon Department of Justice

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### TESTIMONY ON HB 3348 For the House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services March 18, 2025

#### Presented by:

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**This testimony is presented in support of House Bill 3348 with the -1 amendment.**

#### How This Bill Changes Current Law

The Oregon Child Support Program has played a critical role in the lives of Oregon families for 50 years. In that time, child support practices, public policies, and the lives of the people we serve have evolved. Looking ahead, the program is committed to providing the right services at the right time to support parents in supporting their children. To better fulfill our mission of *supporting parents to support children*, we seek to modernize outdated language, make small adjustments to expand access to justice, and close gaps in services.

#### Key Points of This Legislation

House Bill 3348 makes the following changes to ORS Chapter 25:

- Updates outdated, incomplete, and inadequate terminology to align with program and common usage and with the principles of broader program modernization:
  - Replaces the term “notice and finding of financial responsibility” with “notice and proposed order.” This is simpler and clearer for families to understand.
  - Replaces “child support enforcement” with “child support program services” where appropriate—enforcement is only one of the services the program offers.
  - Makes references to the “Child Support Program” consistent.
  - Amends ORS 25.084 to clarify that a petition or motion may include a request to enroll for child support services.

- Updates ORS 25.095 to remove the limitation that the earlier issued judgment must be administrative to use the existing “notice of controlling judgment” process and to add language to include child support judgments that switch the child support obligation from one parent to the other.
- Allows certain notices to be delivered electronically instead of by regular first-class mail if authorized by the recipient.
- Miscellaneous cleanup edits (including several recommended by Legislative Counsel):
  - Repeals ORS 25.575, 25.576, and 25.710, and updates ORS 25.396 and 25.501 related to the Oregon Youth Authority.
  - Updates ORS 25.505 and 25.511 to clarify that a written request for enforcement of a child support obligation may be received from another jurisdiction’s Title IV-D child support program or an authorized country as described in ORS 110.503(5).
  - Moves definitions of “public assistance” from ORS 25.501 to 25.010.
  - Formally adds ORS 25.501 to 25.556 series to Chapter 25.
  - Corrects citation to ORS 25.529 in ORS 25.089. The current version cites ORS 25.501 inappropriately.
  - Removes definition of “Department” from 25.010 and 25.501.
  - Removes definition of “child support program” from ORS 25.260 and clarifies the title for the Oregon Child Support Program in ORS 180.345.
  - Conforming amendment to match ORS 670.406, which was enacted in Senate Bill 854 (2019) related to licensing agencies, boards, and commissions sharing with the Oregon Child Support Program a federal Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) when a Social Security number is not available.

### **-1 Amendment**

The -1 amendments remove Sections 1 and 2 of the original bill and make a small change to Section 21. Sections 1 and 2 were initially included because the transfer of the Oregon Child Support Program from the Oregon Department of Human Services to the Department of Justice in 2001 inadvertently omitted the program from the predecessor statute for ORS 419B.005. However, after subsequent research and evaluation, the program determined that OAR 137-055-1140(16) and (17), and the program’s current structure and training, sufficiently and appropriately meet the goals of the statute, and a statutory change is unnecessary.

### **Recommended Action**

The Oregon Child Support Program recommends adoption of the -1 amendments and committee approval of House Bill 3348 to increase access to justice, close service gaps, and ensure our program’s language and processes are in line with current practices, ultimately strengthening the support we provide to Oregon families.