House Bill 2216

Sponsored by Representative PILUSO, Senator GELSER, Representative MCLAIN; Representatives KENY-GUYER, SANCHEZ (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure as introduced.

Requires Department of Human Services to adopt rules to establish Oregon Foster Children's Sibling Bill of Rights.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to rights of foster children who are siblings.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. As used in sections 1 to 3 of this 2017 Act, “foster child” means a child who is in the legal custody of the Department of Human Services pursuant to the provisions of ORS chapter 418, 419B or 419C and who is or was placed in substitute care with a foster parent or a child-caring agency as defined in ORS 418.205.

SECTION 2. It is the intent of the Legislative Assembly that siblings who are foster children have certain essential rights, including but not limited to the following:

(1) To obtain substitute care placements together whenever possible and appropriate.

(2) To maintain contact and visits with siblings while placed both in and out of substitute care placements, including contact by telephone, electronic mail and social media access.

(3) To be provided with transportation to maintain contact and have visits with siblings.

(4) To be placed with foster parents who have been provided with parent training on the importance of sibling relationships.

(5) To include in any adoptive placement, terms ensuring that contact with siblings will be encouraged and maintained.

(6) To have a sibling contact plan developed and followed as part of any substitute care placement.

(7) To have more private or less restrictive communication with siblings as compared to communications with others who are not siblings.

(8) To be immediately and timely notified of placement changes or catastrophic events affecting a sibling.

SECTION 3. (1) The Department of Human Services shall adopt rules establishing the Oregon Foster Children's Sibling Bill of Rights, specifying the rights of foster children who are siblings consistent with the provisions of section 2 of this 2017 Act.

(2) The department shall periodically review the rules establishing the Oregon Foster Children's Sibling Bill of Rights to ensure that the bill of rights complies with the principles and requirements set forth in section 2 of this 2017 Act. The department shall promote the participation of current and former foster children who had or have siblings in the development of the rules constituting the Oregon Foster Children's Sibling Bill of Rights and the

NOTE: Matter in boldfaced type in an amended section is new; matter [italic and bracketed] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in boldfaced type.

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development of state foster care and child welfare policy.

SECTION 4. Sections 1 to 3 of this 2017 Act apply to foster children with siblings in substitute care with a foster parent or child-caring agency on or after the effective date of this 2017 Act.