

House Bill 2216

Sponsored by Representative PILUSO, Senator GELSER, Representative MCLAIN; Representatives KENY-GUYER, SANCHEZ (Pre-session 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

1
2 Relating to rights of foster children who are siblings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 **development of state foster care and child welfare policy.**

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

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