

SB 356 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 04/12/21

Action: Do pass and requesting referral to Ways and Means.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Gelser, Gorsek, Robinson, Thomsen

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 4/7, 4/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates position of school nurse specialist in the Oregon Department of Education. Establishes responsibilities of school nurse specialist and requires school nurse specialist to be registered nurse.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Lack of understanding of school nurse duties in Oregon Department of Education
- School nurse roles and responsibilities

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Oregon Department of Education's *Nursing Services in Oregon Public Schools - 2020* report, Oregon schools rank near the bottom of national averages in access to school nurse services. Fewer than 7 percent of Oregon's schools report that students have full-time access to a school nurse. Oregon has a total of 376.5 FTE nursing staff in its schools, serving nearly 500,000 students. Many of Oregon's school districts have no nursing staff at all. Senate Bill 356 creates a position of school nurse specialist in the Oregon Department of Education to coordinate nursing activities in schools.