

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference
Vote:	6 - 0 - 3
Yeas:	Clem, Greenlick, Komp, Roblan, Whisnant, Buckley
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Dallum, Krummel, Lim
Prepared By:	Derrick Olsen, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/16, 3/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs Superintendent of Public Instruction to contract for development of kindergarten through grade 12 Mandarin Chinese language curriculum. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Department of Education for contract. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2007.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of Oregon students learning Mandarin Chinese and studying abroad in China
- Importance of starting young when studying a foreign language
- Importance of China to Oregon's economic future
- Utilizing Chinese-American talent in Oregon
- Current language programs on Mandarin Chinese in Oregon
- Foreign language curriculum
- Concern over specific mention of University of Oregon's Center for Applied Second Language Studies
- Possibility of additional full-time equivalent (FTE) on second languages needed in Department of Education

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

- deletes language specifying "the University of Oregon's Center for Applied Second Language Studies" as an option for developing the curriculum and leaves it general with "any entity" and adds the word "Mandarin" before every mention of "Chinese"

BACKGROUND: HB 2763-A is modeled after a similar program in Minnesota adopted by the legislature in 2006. It would mandate that the Department of Education contract (with the University of Oregon's Center for Applied Second Language Studies or another entity) to develop a K-12 Mandarin Chinese language curriculum for public schools. HB 2763-A specifies what the development of the curriculum should involve and mandates working with a network of Mandarin Chinese language teachers.

According to Mt. Holyoke College, "Mandarin Chinese is by far the most-spoken first language in the world, but it is only the 8th-most-popular language to study in the U.S." Reportedly less than 1% of Oregon high schools graduates have had two years or more of Mandarin Chinese.

HB 2763-A would appropriate \$350,000 to the Department of Education and has a subsequent referral to the Joint Ways and Means Committee.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.