

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued**

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass
<b>Vote:</b>	9 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Bonamici, Bruun, Cannon, Flores, Gelser, Kotek, Maurer, Richardson, Greenlick
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	3/06 (policy sub), 3/15 (policy sub), 3/16 (full)

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Creates an eight member task force to study and assess the availability of nursing services in Oregon schools and the feasibility of expanding existing services. Specifies task force membership and responsibilities. Requires the task force to submit a report to appropriate interim committee no later than September 1, 2008. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- School nurse shortage placing students at risk and schools in vulnerable positions
- Increased demands on school nurses as chronic illnesses become more complex within student populations
- Increased role of school nurses as partners with parents for children's health needs
- Importance of having accurate information on the nurse/student ratio in Oregon
- School nurses no longer an "extra" for schools, but a critical component of students' well being
- Medical procedures being delegated to non-medically trained personnel
- The need to promote parent involvement and participation
- Board of Pharmacy interest

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** According to the National Association of School Nursing (NASN), the practice of school nursing began in the United States on October 1, 1902. The primary role of the school nurse was to reduce absenteeism by intervening with students and families regarding health care needs related to communicable diseases. The NASN notes that while the nurse's role has expanded from its original focus, the essence of the practice remains the same.

The School Health Services Department is operated by the Multnomah Education Service District and works in partnership with local school districts to strengthen schools' ability to support the physical health of students so they can achieve their academic success. The school nursing programs and the school based health centers provide schools and their students with a comprehensive range of health services.

Proponents of HB 2773 assert that with the shortage of registered nurses in schools and the Oregon caseloads being higher than the national recommendations, the measure will provide the necessary information needed to strengthen Oregon's school nurse program.