

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
Vote:	9 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Clem, Dallum, Greenlick, Komp, Krummel, Lim, Roblan, Whisnant, Buckley
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Derrick Olsen, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/25, 4/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs the Department of Education to establish a program to increase the number of speech-language pathologists and speech-language pathology assistants in Oregon. Directs the department to award grants to students studying to become licensed speech-language pathologists or speech-language pathology assistants. Directs department to award stipends to licensed speech-language pathologists who are employed by education service districts or school districts and provide training to participants. Establishes eligibility requirements to qualify for grants. Establishes grant levels and limits grants to tuition costs if less than the grant level. Establishes stipend levels for speech-language pathologists providing training. Establishes Speech-Language Pathologist Training Fund. Continuously appropriates moneys in the fund to the department for the purpose of awarding grants/stipends. Appropriates \$496,680 to the department for the program. Declares an emergency; takes affect on July 1, 2007.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- High demand and need for a solution to shortage of speech-language pathologists and assistants
- Competition with hospitals and rehabilitation centers for candidates for speech-language pathologists
- Financial incentive needed to increase supply of speech-language pathologists and assistants to schools
- Programs at University of Oregon, Portland State University, and Chemeketa Community College

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: The amendment replaces the entire text of HB 3141.

BACKGROUND: HB 3141-A establishes eligibility requirements to qualify for grants, including agreeing to be employed in Oregon for a minimum of two years as a speech-language pathologist or pathology assistant within three years after graduation or to repay the grant. HB 3141-A establishes grant levels of \$2,000/academic year for speech-language pathology assistants and \$9,000/academic year for speech-language pathologists (and limits grants to tuition costs if less than the grant level). HB 3141-A establishes stipend levels for speech-language pathologists providing training at \$400 per participant for providing training to become a licensed speech-language pathologist and \$200 per participant for providing training to become a certified speech-language assistant.