74th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - 2007 Regular Session STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY House Committee on Education

MEASURE: CARRIER:

REVENUE: No revenue impact FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued	
Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	8 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Clem, Dallum, Greenlick, Komp, Lim, Roblan, Whisnant, Buckley
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Krummel
Prepared By:	Derrick Olsen, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Superintendent of Public Instruction to issue fact-finding report on division of South Umpqua School District No. 19 into two districts. Provides for selection and duties of fact finder. Requires report to order district boundary board to submit question of dividing district to school district electors, to recommend conversion of Canyonville School to public charter school or to consider alternative for operation of Canyonville School. Requires district boundary board to proceed with division if majority of votes cast in election approve. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of South Umpqua School District consolidation (Canyonville, Myrtle Creek, and Tri-City)
- Dispute between Canyonville and South Umpqua School District over closure of Canyonville Middle School
- South Umpqua School Board makeup and Canyonville concerns over being outvoted on issue
- Need for independent third-party report on possible division of South Umpqua School District
- Plans for possible public charter school in Canyonville
- Declining enrollment school districts, budget cuts, and challenge of adequate school funding

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Current law does not allow school districts to divide. SB 462-A stems from the South Umpqua school district's closure of the middle school in Canyonville in the spring of 2006. The closure was opposed by some Canyonville residents. Since the closure, some Canyonville sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students have been transported to Coffenberry Middle School in Myrtle Creek while other students chose to go to the Days Creek Charter School in Days Creek.

The Senate Education and General Government Committee gave SB 462-A a Do Pass as Amended recommendation with a 5-0 vote, and it passed the Senate 22-5-3.