

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 Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Kruse, Metsger, Morse, Westlund, Walker

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Dana Richardson, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/8, 4/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates interim Task Force on Oregon School for the Deaf and Oregon School for the Blind. Provides for Task Force membership and responsibilities. Establishes governor-appointed, senate-confirmed Board of Directors for Oregon School for the Deaf and for Oregon School for the Blind respectively. Provides for board membership, terms of office, and duties. Allows either board to appeal certain decisions by Superintendent of Public Instruction to State Board of Education. Declares an emergency; effective July 1, 2007.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Creating separate Boards of Trustees for the School for the Deaf and School for the Blind
- Local control of the School for the Deaf and the School for the Blind
- Current School for the Deaf reporting requirements to the Department of Education

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon School for the Deaf was established in 1870. Approximately half of the students attend school on a daily basis, while the other half live in residence halls during the week and go home on the weekends. Since 1971, the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Department of Education have been charged with providing education services for children who are deaf. In a highly publicized incident, the school director was dismissed by Superintendent at the end of December 2006.