

**74th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - 2008 Special Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee on Education**

**MEASURE: SB 1068 A
CARRIER: Rep. Komp**

**REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued**

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	8 - 1 - 0
Yeas:	Clem, Greenlick, Huffman, Komp, Krummel, Roblan, Whisnant, Buckley
Nays:	Lim
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Dana Richardson, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/19, 2/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires school districts to offer half-day kindergarten free of charge. Requires public charter school, if it offers kindergarten, to offer half-day kindergarten. Permits school districts and public charter schools to offer and charge tuition for supplemental kindergarten. Provides for student transportation for half-day and supplemental kindergarten. Prohibits charging tuition for supplemental kindergarten for certain students. Provides for partial or full tuition waiver under circumstances of severe hardship. Validates prior collection of tuition or fees for supplemental kindergarten. Applies to 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 school years. Sunsets on June 30, 2010. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Mandating full-day kindergarten
- Minimum age requirement for public education
- Appropriate class sizes and impact on capital needs
- Methods used by some districts to pay for full-day kindergarten

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: In January 2007, a Corvallis family raised concerns about the practice of charging tuition for kindergarten in the Corvallis Unified School District. The district sought legal counsel from the Department of Education, which in turn sought counsel from the Attorney General's Office (AG). In December 2007, the AG issued an opinion stating that if school districts offer more than a half-day kindergarten program, the entire program is part of their regular school program and, therefore, the school district may not charge students tuition to participate in the program. The AG's opinion is considered advisory to school districts. The Superintendent of Public Instruction has recommended that school districts seek local counsel and evaluate their programs based on local legal advice.

Currently, seventy-eight districts offer full-day kindergarten at one or more schools within a district and approximately ten thousand students participate in full-day programs. Seventeen school districts charged tuition and twenty-five hundred students paid tuition in the full-day programs during the 2006-2007 school year. Some districts recently started the practice of charging tuition while others have been charging tuition for ten to fifteen years.

2/20/2008 5:02:00 PM

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

Committee Services Form – 2008 Special Session