

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

**Vote:** 4 – 1 – 0

**Yeas:** Kruse, Metsger, Morse, Walker

**Nays:** Hass

**Exc.:** 0

**Prepared By:** Dana Richardson, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 2/11

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires common school districts to offer half-day kindergarten. Requires public charter school to offer half-day kindergarten if they offer kindergarten. Requires half-day kindergarten to meet academic content standards adopted by State Board. Prohibits school district and public charter school from charging tuition for half-day kindergarten. Permits common school districts and charter schools to offer supplemental kindergarten. Requires transportation to be offered for students in half-day and supplemental kindergarten. Allows districts to offer supplemental kindergarten in one or more district schools and to charge tuition for the service. Prohibits charging tuition for supplemental kindergarten for certain students. Provides for partial or full tuition waiver under circumstances of severe hardship. Applies to 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 school years. Sunsets on June 30, 2010. Validates prior collection of tuition or fees for supplemental kindergarten. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Provision of core curriculum during half-day kindergarten
- Access to kindergarten for low-income families and students
- Budgetary impact of funding full-day kindergarten
- Need for information on what kindergarten offerings currently exist
- Establishing a future date for funding full-day kindergarten
- Capital requirement for offering full-day kindergarten statewide
- Fees charged in public schools

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Clarifies applicability only to common schools. Requires half-day kindergarten to meet academic content standards adopted by State Board. Requires transportation to be offered for students in half-day and supplemental kindergarten.

**BACKGROUND:** In January 2007, a Corvallis family raised concerns about the tuition charging practices of 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.

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