

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
Vote:	6 - 4 - 0
Yeas:	Dembrow, Harker, Komp, Roblan, VanOrman, Gelser
Nays:	Huffman, Maurer, Sprenger, Thatcher
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Kevin T. Christiansen, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/16, 2/20, 2/25, 3/2, 3/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes ten-member Oregon Environmental Literacy Task Force to develop an Oregon Environmental Literacy Plan. Requires task force to submit a report to the interim Education Committee by October 1, 2010. Provides that the taskforce's goals are to prepare students to understand environmental issues facing Oregon and the United States; promote healthy lifestyles in students by providing outdoor experiences; and create opportunities for teachers to improve their knowledge of environmental issues. Establishes that in order to meet the goals of the task force, the task force shall identify academic content standards; the relationship of the plan to Oregon graduation requirements; methods to measure environmental literacy; programs for teacher professional development; means to implement the environmental literacy plan; and ways to encourage educational agencies and public schools to participate in environmental education programs. Designates a \$10,000 appropriation from the General Fund to the Department of Education for purposes of carrying out task force duties. Requires task force to define terms and to seek a variety of sources and viewpoints related to environmental literacy. Declares an emergency, effective July 1, 2009.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Concerns regarding funding and potential fiscal impact
- Definitions of environmental terms
- Benefits of environmental education
- Discussion related to potential need for additional task force representatives

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Adds a preamble discussing the importance of environmental education. Increases the number of task force members from nine to 10. Requires that the additional task force member represent a local park and recreation association providing environmental education. Permits the Department of Education to accept money and assistance from the United States Government, its agencies, or any other public or private source. Provides that the Department of Education agrees to conditions placed on sums received that are not inconsistent with the duties of the task force. Changes the appropriation amount from the General Fund to the Department of Education for purposes of carrying out the task force's duties from \$50,000 to \$10,000. Requires the task force to identify the meaning of key terms required for developing the plan, including the meanings of "environmental literacy," "climate change," and "healthy lifestyles." Requires the task force to seek input from a variety of sources and viewpoints related to environmental literacy.

BACKGROUND: To qualify for environmental grant funds under No Children Left Behind (NCLB) Title II, a state must develop and submit a K-12 plan to the United States Department of Education to ensure that students are environmentally literate. NCLB describes the criteria that states must use when developing the plan; those criteria are included in the provisions of HB 2544.

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