

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Buckley
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Monroe

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure as Amended and Be Printed B-Engrossed

Vote: 14 – 5 – 3

House

Yeas: Buckley, C. Edwards, D. Edwards, Galizio, Jenson, Kotek, Nathanson, Shields

Nays: Garrard, Gilman

Exc: Richardson, G. Smith

Senate

Yeas: Carter, Monroe, Nelson, Verger, Walker, Winters

Nays: Girod, Johnson, Whitsett

Exc: Bates

Prepared By: Erica Kleiner, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: June 16, 2009

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:

- Fiscal impact of the measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Removes the \$10,000 appropriation from the General Fund to the Department of Education for purposes of carrying out task force duties and adds three members to the task force, including the State Forester, or a designee, the Director of Agriculture, or a designee, and a member who represents the marine industry, as appointed by the State Marine Director. The measure is limited to one member who is appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

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.