

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Nathanson
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Johnson

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 21 – 0 – 1

House

Yeas: Buckley, C. Edwards, D. Edwards, Galizio, Garrard, Gilman, Jenson, Kotek, Nathanson, Richardson, Shields, G. Smith

Nays:

Exc:

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Carter, Girod, Johnson, Monroe, Nelson, Verger, Walker, Whitsett

Nays:

Exc: Winters

Prepared By: Erica Kleiner, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: 6/22, 6/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires a school district to ensure that it has a specified ratio of nursing personnel to medically complex students, medically fragile students, and nursing-dependent students. Encourages school districts to have one registered nurse or school nurse for every 750 students in school district. Requires the Department of Education to submit an annual report to the State Board of Education and the interim legislative committees related to education on the number of nurses in each school district and the number of medically complex students, medically fragile students and nursing-dependent students in each school district by October 1 of each year. Declares an emergency; effective July 1, 2009.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fiscal impact

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Deletes the appropriation to the Department of Education and adds requirement that school districts must have one registered nurse or school nurse for every 225 medically complex students. Adds language regarding other individuals involvement in decisions related to school nursing services provided to a child.

BACKGROUND: According to the National Association of Student Nurses, Oregon is currently ranked 49th in the nation for its nurse-to-student ratio. Because of the high number of students per nurse, nurses are spread thinly across the state, often covering multiple schools. House Bill 2773 (2007) established a task force to study the current status of, and provide recommendations for, constructing the future of school nursing in Oregon. House Bill 2693A stems from some of those findings. The measure provides specific requirements regarding the number of nurses per student that each district should have.