

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass and Rescind the Subsequent Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means
Vote:	9 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Dembrow, Harker, Huffman, Komp, Maurer, Sprenger, Thatcher, VanOrman, Gelser
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Roblan
Prepared By:	Kevin T. Christiansen, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/4, 5/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Extends through 2011-2012 school year applicability of law that allows school districts and public charter schools to charge tuition and offer supplemental kindergarten. Establishes Full-Day Kindergarten Implementation Committee to aid and advise Legislative Assembly, school districts, and public charter schools on providing full-day kindergarten by 2012-2013 school year. Authorizes Superintendent of Public Instruction to determine committee membership including legislators as non-voting members. Charges committee with providing school districts and private charter schools resources to determine whether to implement full-day kindergarten programs. Requires committee to submit report and provide proposed legislation with method for funding full-day kindergarten programs to interim legislative committees no later than October 1, 2010. Sunsets committee at convening of 2011 legislative session. Declares an emergency; effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Benefits of full-day kindergarten
- Costs of remediation
- Addressing funding issues

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: In January 2007, a Corvallis family raised concerns about the practice of charging tuition for kindergarten in their public school district. In December 2007, the Attorney General issued an opinion stating that if school districts offered more than a half-day kindergarten program, the entire program should be considered part of their regular school program. The legal conclusion, therefore, was that school districts could not charge students tuition to participate in the program. After this advisory opinion was released, the Superintendent of Public Instruction recommended that school districts seek local counsel and evaluate their programs based on local legal advice.

During the 2008 Special Legislative Session, the Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill 1068 that, generally, required school districts to offer half-day kindergarten free of charge and permitted school districts and charter schools to charge tuition for supplemental kindergarten through the 2009-2010 school year. The Act also required that student transportation for half-day and supplemental kindergarten be provided in the same manner as for elementary and secondary school students.