

75th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY - 2009 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee on Education and General Government

MEASURE: SB 44 A
CARRIER: Sen. Hass

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Bonamici, Kruse, Metsger, Morse, Hass

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Dana Richardson, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 1/26, 2/4, 2/18, 2/23, 2/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Extends applicability of law that allows school districts and public charter schools to charge tuition for and offer supplemental kindergarten through 2011-2012. Establishes Full-Day Kindergarten Implementation Committee to aid and advise legislature, school districts, and public charter schools to provide 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 resources on capital needs, enrollment trends, funding requirements, and best practices for providing full-day kindergarten. Requires committee to submit report and provide proposed legislation with method for funding full-day kindergarten programs to interim legislative committees no later than Oct. 1, 2010. Sunsets committee at convening of 2011 legislative session. Declares emergency; effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Use of extended instruction time
- Capital needs for full-day kindergarten
- Use of School Improvement Funds
- Setting a certain date for implementation
- Weighting in the State School Fund for small schools
- Mechanism for receiving State School Funds if supplemental kindergarten is offered

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Establishes Full-Day Kindergarten Implementation Committee to aid and advise legislature, school districts, and public charter schools to provide 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 resources on capital needs, enrollment trends, funding requirements, and best practices for providing full-day kindergarten. Requires committee to submit report and provide proposed legislation with method for funding full-day kindergarten programs to interim legislative committees no later than Oct. 1, 2010. Sunsets committee at convening of 2011 legislative session. Declares emergency; effective upon passage.

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 State 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 Session, the legislature 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 measure also required that student transportation for half-day and supplemental kindergarten be provided in the same manner as for elementary and secondary school students.

2/27/2009 3:21:00 PM

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