

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass
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:	5/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Permits school districts that have not offered benefit plans provided by Oregon Educators Benefit Board (OEBB) to provide or contract for benefit plans, other than those provided by the board, if premiums for the benefit plans are equal to or less than the premiums for comparable benefit plans provided by the board. Requires actuarial analysis at least once every two years to receive the exception. Prohibits employees of district or employee groups within district from providing or contracting for benefit plans other than those provided by OEBB once employees or groups have participated in OEBB plans. Declares an emergency; effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Preventing districts from opting in and out of OEBB
- Frequency of actuarial analysis
- Comparability of OEBB plans with other plans

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 426 (2007) created the OEBB that acts as a common insurance pool for school districts. It specified that plans offered by the OEBB must be comparable in design to, and not more expensive than, benefit plans provided by districts immediately prior to purchase of board-approved plans.

The board was directed to contract for health, dental, and other benefit plans for employees of most school districts and education service districts before October 1, 2008. Since that date, districts have been generally prohibited from offering benefit plans other than those provided by the board. Districts not currently participating in the OEBB include self-insured districts and districts with independent health trusts that were not required to join if the premiums for their plans were equal to or less than the premiums for comparable benefit plans provided by the board. Also, districts that have not yet reached the specified time in their collective bargaining agreements to trigger enrollment are not currently participating. Additionally, OEBB developed a comparability assessment protocol to provide waivers of participation to districts with comparable plans and lower premiums.