

2009 Regular Legislative Session
FISCAL ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION
Prepared by the Oregon Legislative Fiscal Office

MEASURE NUMBER: HB 2834 **STATUS:** A Engrossed
SUBJECT: Closing of the Oregon School for the Blind and student transition provisions
GOVERNMENT UNIT AFFECTED: Department of Education, Department of Human Services,
Department of Administrative Services, local education agencies
PREPARED BY: Erica Kleiner
REVIEWED BY: Monica Brown
DATE: April 13, 2009

	<u>2009-2011</u>	<u>2011-2013</u>
EXPENDITURES: See Comments.		

REVENUES:
See Comments.

EFFECTIVE DATE: On passage.

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET: This bill is not anticipated by the Governor's recommended budget.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANDATE: This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

COMMENTS: The bill directs the Superintendent of Public Instruction to close the Oregon School for the Blind before September 1, 2009 and effective September 1, 2009 abolishes its Board of Directors. The bill requires the Department of Education (ODE) to ensure that a comprehensive transition plan is developed for students of the school. The bill requires that the comprehensive transition plans for students must provide for the purchase of resources and services as specified in the bill to help the students make the transition from the school to their communities. The bill identifies the parties that must develop each student's comprehensive transition plan. The bill requires public employers to give preference for a vacant position to a qualified person who worked for the school.

The bill creates two funds: the Oregon Trust Fund for Blind and Visually Impaired Students (trust fund) and the Blind and Visually Impaired Student Legacy Fund (student legacy fund). The bill places parameters around how moneys from these funds shall be distributed. The bill establishes the Board of Directors of the trust fund and requires that the board audit this fund on an annual basis. The bill requires that all moneys in the student legacy fund be continuously appropriated to ODE for specified purposes. The bill appropriates \$6.5 million General Fund to ODE for the 2009-11 biennium to be deposited in the student legacy fund for the purposes of assisting students who are blind and visually impaired with receiving resources and services including providing technical assistance and coordinating activities for the students; supplementing the funding of regional programs; and coordinating the professional development of providers to students who are blind or visually impaired. The bill requires the Board of Directors of the trust fund to develop a written plan to sell the school site and facilities and submit the plan to the Governor and public prior to June 1, 2010. The bill requires that the proceeds from the sale of the school be placed in the trust fund. The bill outlines parameters for the sale of the school site and facilities and the distribution of school property. The bill requires ODE to designate a regional special

education program that meets criteria as specified by the bill to provide statewide coordination and technical assistance related to the provision of services to students who are blind or visually impaired. The bill allows the designated program to receive and distribute moneys from the student legacy fund to other regional programs. The measure is effective upon passage.

The bill requires the Department of Administrative Services to hold the school site and facilities of the Oregon School for the Blind in trust until a written plan is completed. The bill requires DAS to facilitate communication between recruiting political subdivisions and School for the Blind employees who are employed at the time of closure. The bill requires DHS to ensure that each student receives screening and evaluation to determine the student's eligibility for services within the student's community. The bill allows ODE to distribute up to \$750,000 to DHS from the student legacy fund for service to students provided as part of their comprehensive transition plans.

This fiscal impact statement is for the purpose of transmitting the measure from the House Committee on Education to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means. A fiscal analysis on the bill will be prepared as the measure is considered in the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.