

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

MEASURE NUMBER: SB 44

STATUS: A Engrossed

SUBJECT: Extends, to the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years, law requiring school districts to offer half-day kindergarten and allowing school districts and public charter schools to offer supplemental kindergarten. Creates the Full-Day Kindergarten Implementation Committee

GOVERNMENT UNIT AFFECTED: Oregon Department of Education, Local Education Agencies (public schools, public school districts and public charter schools)

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REVIEWED BY: Monica Brown

DATE: February 26, 2009

2009-2011

2011-2013

EXPENDITURES:

See Analysis

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.

ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 44 extends to the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years the 2008 Act (1) requiring school districts to offer half-day kindergarten in one or more schools in the district; (2) prescribing academic standards and transportation requirements for half-day kindergarten; (3) permitting school districts and public charter schools to offer supplemental kindergarten; and (4) establishing rules for charging tuition and offering tuition waivers for supplemental kindergarten.

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) reports that extension of the 2008 Act to the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years will not have a fiscal impact to the Department because ODE currently has administrative rules for the goals and standards of the public K-12 education systems and won't require any additional rule making.

The fiscal impact of this bill is indeterminate for school districts and public charter schools. However, the bill does set forth certain parameters. It permits school districts and public charter schools to offer supplemental kindergarten programs, charge tuition for such programs, and provide for transportation for the programs. The permissive nature of the bill opens up opportunities for school districts and public charter schools to add to their current kindergarten programs. In terms of general volume, approximately seventy-eight school districts are currently offering full-day kindergarten programs. Of these seventy-eight, approximately sixteen of them are charging around \$300/month in tuition to cover the costs associated with the programs. It is unknown how many school districts would add full-day kindergarten programs in their schools and how many would decide to administer tuition to fund the programs. The impact of more schools offering longer days of kindergarten on classroom teachers, ancillary support for school staff such as counselors, librarians, and PE teachers, school facilities and transportation resources is unknown.

Senate Bill 44 also creates the Full-Day Kindergarten Implementation Committee to support and advise the Legislative Assembly, school districts and public charter schools in developing and providing full-day kindergarten programs by the 2012-2013 school year. The Superintendent of Public Instruction will determine Committee membership, terms of service and organization of committee. The Committee must submit a report and provide proposed legislation to the interim legislative committees by October 1, 2020. The Committee is repealed at the convening of the next regular biennial legislative session.

The bill specifies that all members of the Committee serve as volunteers and are not entitled to compensation, per diem or reimbursement of expenses. ODE is charged with staffing the Committee. Because the nature of the Committee's work is included in the current regular assignments of management and executive level employees, if the bill passes, current ODE staff will provide technical administrative support to the Committee, and ODE will absorb this cost. LFO notes that other bills are pending before this Legislative Assembly that would require an expenditure of ODE staff time. If this measure creates a workload beyond levels assumed in the ODE budget, or if the cumulative effect of workload from the enactment of other bills exceeds levels assumed in the ODE budget, additional resources may be required.