

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

MEASURE NUMBER: SB 906

STATUS: Original

SUBJECT: Establishing a Task Force on Increasing the Numbers of Oregon Students in Post-Secondary Education

GOVERNMENT UNIT AFFECTED: Department of Education

PREPARED BY: Erica Kleiner

REVIEWED BY: Monica Brown

DATE: April 7, 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 906 creates a fifteen-member Task Force on Increasing the Numbers of Oregon Students in Post-Secondary Education. The task force is charged with investigating means of expanding the best practices of programs such as GEAR UP and ASPIRE to all Oregon students, with priority given to under-represented demographic groups; including vocational schools and professional certification schools in its consideration of post-secondary education; determining the earliest age when it is appropriate to begin introducing students and families to the idea of post-secondary education and recommending age-appropriate curricula; and considering and recommending measures to accomplish certain goals. In addition to representatives from the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), members would represent the Oregon Legislature, community colleges, accredited vocational or professional certification schools, secondary schools, primary schools, universities, high schools, parents of children in under-represented demographic groups, the GEAR UP program, and the ASPIRE program.

A report from the task force is due to the Legislative Assembly no later than September 1, 2010, and the task force is repealed on the convening of the next regular biennial legislative session.

The Department of Education is charged with providing staff support to the task force. ODE is directed to seek funding through a private partnership or a grant to offset the costs of the task force. Based on recent experience with new advisory bodies, ODE assumes that the task force would meet seven times over the course of ten months. With the exception of members of the Legislative Assembly, task force members are not entitled to compensation but are entitled to reimbursements for allowable travel and other expenses. ODE anticipates these claims to be minimal. Assuming these limited claims and this limited schedule, ODE calculates incidental costs such as meeting costs, allowable reimbursements for task force members, photocopies and production of the final report to be approximately \$3,000.

Current ODE staff would be assigned to support the task force. ODE estimates the impact on staffing to be a workload equivalent of one Education Specialist at 0.10 FTE and one Office Specialist at 0.05 FTE. ODE values this staff time at approximately \$21,000. The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) notes that

ODE would not need to hire additional staff to support this task force, only to re-prioritize duties and responsibilities of existing staff. The \$21,000 equivalent serves as an estimate of possible incremental staffing cost if ODE needs to hire additional staff in the event that re-prioritization of duties and responsibilities of existing staff were not feasible during the functional life of the task force or if the cumulative effect of workload from the enactment of other bills exceeds levels assumed in the ODE budget. LFO notes that other bills are pending before this Legislative Assembly that also would require an expenditure of ODE staff time. LFO also notes that the Task Force is effective on passage and could impact ODE in the 2007-09 biennium.