

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	10 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Dembrow, Harker, Huffman, Komp, Maurer, Roblan, Sprenger, Thatcher, VanOrman, Gelser
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Dana Richardson, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes Superintendent of Public Instruction to enter into agreement with another nation or another nation's public agency to ensure instruction of Mandarin Chinese is available to public school students by facilitating placement of teachers who speak Mandarin Chinese fluently. Declares emergency; effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Inclusion of languages other than Mandarin Chinese
- Permissive nature of the program
- Specification of contract requirements in statute

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the measure but for the emergency clause.

BACKGROUND: In 2007, the Oregon House of Representatives passed House Resolution 3, urging secondary schools to encourage students to learn Mandarin Chinese and to explore opportunities to study in China. In 2008, five Oregon school districts offered classes in Mandarin Chinese. It has been reported that Mandarin Chinese is by far the most-spoken first language in the world, but it is only the 8th-most-popular language to study in the United States.