

REVENUE: Revenue statement issued
FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 9 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Dembrow, Harker, Huffman, Maurer, Roblan, Sprenger, Thatcher, VanOrman, Gelser
Nays: 0
Exc.: Komp
Prepared By: Dana Richardson, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 2/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Specifies that children who are foreign exchange students and reside in school district-operated dormitories are considered residents of the school district where the dormitory is located. Applies to 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years. Includes school district in definition of public agency for purposes of financing treatment works. Adds Oregon prekindergarten program providers to Head Start pilot project to implement health literacy program. Permits school district or education service district to enter into funds diversion agreement with Oregon Department of Education to make debt service payments on qualified revenue bonds. Repeals authorization to enter into agreements as of June 30, 2029. Declares emergency; effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impact of hosting foreign exchange students in small school districts
- Previous inclusion of housing in dormitories in statute

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Several small school districts host foreign exchange students. In some cases, the foreign exchange students comprise nearly half of the total student enrollment. Some small districts house the visiting students in dormitories. The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) recently determined that districts could not receive State School Funds for these students living in dormitories because there was no person in the district in a parental relationship to the students. Senate Bill 988A permits districts to receive State School Funds for foreign exchange students living in dormitories for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years.

Senate Bill 988A also facilitates school districts and education services districts (ESDs) seeking to be eligible for qualified school construction bonds available under the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. It permits school districts or ESDs to enter into an agreement with the ODE to divert State School Funds in order to make debt service payments on qualified revenue bonds. Authorization to enter these agreements is repealed as of June 30, 2029.