FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Seventy-Sixth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2011 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

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Measure Description:

Requires school district in which public charter school is located to be responsible for identifying, locating and evaluating students to determine which students may be in need of special education and related services.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Education, School Districts

Summary of Expenditure Impact: See Analysis

Summary of Revenue Impact: See Revenue Impact Statement

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:

The measure sets certain requirements for school districts in which a public charter school is located regarding students enrolled in a public charter school that may be in need of special education and related services. The measure requires the school district in which public charter school is located to be responsible for identifying, locating and evaluating students to determine which students may be in need of special education and related services and provides for the distribution of state funding to the school district for those services. Additionally, the measure requires that school district to maintain appropriate student records regarding special education services and establishes notice requirements for that school district upon student enrollment or when the student is no longer enrolled in the public charter school.

If this measure is enacted, there is a minimal expenditure impact for the Department of Education to modify administrative rules and make adjustments to the State School Fund and high cost disability grant distributions.

The fiscal impact to specific local school districts is indeterminate. Currently the funding and responsibility for special education services is placed on the school district in which the student resides, regardless of where the public charter school is located. According to the Department of Education report, there are 108 charter schools in Oregon in the 2010-2011 school year. However, the number of students which would require special education services while attending a public charter school outside the resident district is unknown.