

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 3474 - A

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

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Measure Description:

Creates Educator Preparation Improvement Fund to improve preparation of teachers and administrators.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Education, Teacher Standards and Practices Commission, School Districts

Summary of Expenditure Impact: See Analysis

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 does several things, including the creation of a new fund, modification of an existing fund, and directs the Department of Education and Teacher Standards and Practices Commission to collaborate on a leadership development system and performance evaluation measures.

Educator Preparation Improvement Fund

The measure establishes the Educator Preparation Improvement Fund, separate and distinct from the General Fund, continuously appropriates moneys in the fund to the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC), and credits the interest earned back to the fund. The measure allows TSPC to accept any grant, donation or gift of money or other valuable thing for purposes of the fund. The fund is created to encourage approved teacher education programs and school district partnerships that meet specified goals.

The fiscal impact of these provisions is indeterminate. The measure identifies several possible sources, but the amount of actual available funds for the Educator Preparation Improvement Fund is unknown. TSPC anticipates utilizing existing staff to establish rules for the program and wait until a source and amount of funds are determined before implementing the grant program. The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) notes that the demand for individual grants to be awarded is indeterminate and that excessive demand may require additional staff to administer the grant program.

National Board Certification Fund

The measure changes the name of the Professional Organizations Certification Fund to the National Board Certification Fund. The measure directs that moneys credited to the National Board Certification Fund are used to assist teachers and administrators to apply for and attain advanced certifications. TSPC may disburse moneys from the National Board Certification Fund to applicants for direct costs of seeking and obtaining national board certification. TSPC is directed to provide support, but not pay for all the costs of any one applicant, and support as many applicants as possible.

TSPC anticipates the workload associated with the requirements regarding the distribution of National Board Certification Fund moneys, including the development of administrative rules, can be absorbed by existing staff.

Comprehensive Leadership Development System

The measure directs the TSPC and the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to create a comprehensive leadership development system for licensed administrators that meets specified criteria. TSPC and ODE must report on the plan for implementation of the leadership development system to the Legislative Assembly no later than March 1, 2013.

TSPC and ODE note that depending on the workload associated with creating the comprehensive leadership development system and cumulative workload requirements added this session or budget reductions, additional staffing may be required. TSPC and ODE anticipate allocating the workload associated with the reporting requirements can be absorbed by existing staff.

Performance Evaluation Measures

The measure directs TSPC and ODE to work with the Oregon Coalition for Quality Teaching and Learning to propose uniform guidelines for performance evaluation measures for teachers that align with updated national teaching standards. TSPC and ODE must report on the status of the proposal to the Legislative Assembly no later than January 1, 2012. The measure directs TSPC to adopt and distribute the performance evaluation measures to school districts and requires school districts to use the evaluation measures by the 2012-13 school year. TSPC and ODE are directed to prepare a plan to encourage national certification for teachers and administrators that includes providing support for applicants and a strategy for providing bonuses to nationally certified teachers and administrators. The measure allows for moneys from the National Board Certification Fund to pay for costs to prepare the plan.

TSPC states that the measure's requirement to adopt and distribute performance evaluation measures by March 1, 2012 is beyond the scope of current budgeted staff expertise. TSPC would need to evaluate the appropriate position classification required to develop and validate performance evaluation measures from the proposed guidelines. The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) notes that depending on the date of passage of the measure, TSPC may not have sufficient time to recruit, hire, and complete the tasks required by the measure's March 1, 2012 deadline.

LFO notes that the measure does not stipulate any enforcement of school districts using the performance evaluation measures adopted and distributed by TSPC. Currently, performance evaluations are addressed by individual district employment contracts and are subject to collective bargaining.

The fiscal impact to school districts is indeterminate. The ability of school districts to adopt performance evaluation measures is contingent on the collective bargaining between school district administration and teacher representation and will vary by individual school district. LFO has contacted school district representatives regarding the potential impact of this measure but has not received a response. If fiscal impact information is provided from school districts LFO will issue a revised fiscal impact statement.