

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 26

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

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Date: 3-28-2011

Measure Description:

Eliminates option for private elementary or secondary school to be registered with Department of Education.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Education, Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

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 eliminates the option for private schools to voluntarily register with the Department of Education. Currently, there are 367 private schools registered in Oregon.

Registration with the Department of Education provides private schools with the ability to use OAKS assessment testing, provides access to more extensive criminal background checks, and allows for the experience obtained by teachers at registered schools be accepted by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC).

The Department states that registration certifies that a private school offers the same instructional hours and consistent curriculum as public schools, that provided transportation meets all necessary requirements, and that the diploma offered will allow the student to go on to post-secondary institutions. However, there is no verification conducted by the Department, and any noncompliance results only in withdrawal of the registration and not enforcement of corrective action or other actions.

The Department of Education anticipates cost savings of staff time and resources for the elimination of the voluntary registration for private schools. The Department states that the measure will not require a reduction of staff, but that the workload of existing staff will shift to other priorities. The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) notes that depending on the cumulative workload savings created by the measure, the legislature may need to review staffing requirements in the future should this legislation pass.

There is a minimal expenditure impact to the TSPC to establish new standards of acceptable experience while teaching in a private school.