

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 245 - A

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

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Measure Description:

Extends by two years sunset of Oregon School Facilities Task Force and Oregon School Facilities Task Force Fund.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Administrative Services

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:

HB 2013 (2009) established a 15-member Oregon School Facilities Task Force, staffed by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). The bill also set a January 2, 2012 sunset date for the task force.

SB 245-1 extends the sunset date to January 2, 2014, adds an additional member to the task force, and prescribes required elements for a public school facilities study that is to be conducted by the task force. These elements include a series of evaluations, several assessments, and financial topics. Recommendations resulting from the study are to be made to the Seventy-seventh Legislative Assembly no later than February 1, 2013.

The task force is required to report annually on funding received and consequences of inadequate funding; the first report is due no later than February 2, 2012.

The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) would continue to provide staff support to the task force; however, the new legislation clarifies that DAS may hire employees or consultants at the request of the task force. DAS has not quantified the estimated cost of staff support for 2011-13. In 2009-11 the Department was able to absorb this support work, including expense reimbursement for eligible task force members, within its existing Facilities budget. The level of support and associated costs are somewhat dependent on the frequency of meetings, meeting locations, and the task force's work plan.

The cost of completing the school facilities study is indeterminate, but likely far from minimal as indicated by the task force during 2009-11. Interim reports outlined cost estimates ranging from \$12.3 million to \$49 million to produce facility assessments meeting requirements of the original legislation. SB 245-1 also preserves the Oregon School Facilities Task Force Fund and its fund balance through January 2, 2014, but does not provide DAS any spending authority to use fund resources, which currently consist of about \$1.3 million Lottery Funds.