

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 602

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

Prepared by: John Terpening
Reviewed by: Monica Brown
Date: 3-28-2011

Measure Description:

Requires instruction in Oregon Studies in middle school.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Education, 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 requires instruction in Oregon Studies in middle school for a minimum of two semesters, or the equivalent of two semesters, beginning in the 2012-2013 school year. The measure is effective July 1, 2012.

The Department of Education states that current standards for Oregon Studies, in consultation with the Oregon Historical Society, have been developed for elementary school, with additional interrelated topics included throughout the subsequent grades. The measure will require the Department to restructure the current standards and develop new guidance materials for school districts. The Department plans to allocate the workload to two existing positions totaling 1.00 FTE for the revision of standards and development of materials.

The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) notes that the development and review of content standards are a normal function of the Department's budgeted workload. However, depending on the cumulative workload requirements added this session or possible budget reductions, the legislature may need to review staffing requirements in the future should this legislation pass.

LFO has contacted school district representatives for a fiscal impact statement but has not received a response. In absence of this information, the fiscal impact to school districts is indeterminate. There appears to be some uncertainty regarding the availability of appropriate Oregon Studies materials for the middle school level. If fiscal impact information is provided from school districts, LFO will issue a revised fiscal impact statement.