

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 6 - 0 - 2
Yeas: Berger, Garrett, Holvey, Wingard, Hunt, Olson
Nays: 0
Exc.: Barnhart, Freeman
Prepared By: Victoria Cox, Committee Staff
Meeting Dates: 6/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes Task Force on Instruction of Talented and Gifted (TAG) Children, to be appointed by Superintendent of Public Instruction. Directs task force to determine resources needed to provide TAG instruction, appropriate level of funding, potential funding methods, and number of children who benefit. Requires task force to submit a report and recommendations to interim legislative committees on education. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- TAG funding measures this legislative session
- Task Force as an opportunity to develop consensus
- Reductions in TAG funding over time relative to services for other student populations
- TAG students as future scientists, engineers and health care professionals
- Reductions in TAG staff necessitated by current education budget

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Federal law requires schools to identify academically talented and intellectually gifted students, who typically qualify by scoring at or above the 97th percentile on a nationally normed test in reading and math. Once identified, TAG students must be taught at their rate and level of learning. In 2009, 41,375, or about 7 percent of Oregon's students, were identified as TAG with the numbers varying significantly by district. The Department of Education (ODE) currently maintains one position to assist districts in serving TAG students. Oregon children are not being identified for high-achieving programs, TAG funding is reduced, teachers lack training in gifted education and there is no compliance accountability for TAG.

Senate Bill 330-A establishes a task force, appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, on the instruction of talented and gifted children. The measure directs the task force to determine the resources needed to provide TAG instruction, the appropriate level of funding, potential funding methods, and the number of children who will benefit. Additionally, the task force is directed to submit a report and recommendations to the interim legislative committees on education. ODE will provide staff and agencies are directed to assist the task force in the performance of its duties.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.