

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

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|----------------|---|
| Action: | Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed |
| Vote: | 5 - 0 - 0 |
| Yeas: | Bonamici, George, Morse, Shields, Hass |
| Nays: | 0 |
| Exc.: | 0 |
| Prepared By: | Linda Lindholm, Administrator |
| Meeting Dates: | 3/24, 4/12 |

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes Task Force, appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, on Instruction of Talented and Gifted (TAG) Children. Directs task force to determine the 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:

- National commitment to talented and gifted students
- Oregon TAG, English as a Second Language (ESL) and Special Education funding /enrollment data comparison
- Gifted education assessment, curriculum and instruction programs and strategies
- Teacher training and professional development
- Trio of related legislative measures

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND: By law, schools must identify their academically talented and intellectually gifted students, who typically qualify by scoring at or above the 97th percentile on a nationally normed test in total reading and total 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 greatly by district. The Department of Education (ODE) currently has 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 would benefit. The task force is required to submit a report and recommendations to the interim legislative committees on education. ODE is to provide staff support and agencies are directed to assist the task force in the performance of its duties.