

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 4077 A

Seventy-Sixth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2012 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

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Measure Description:

Directs each school district board to adopt policy regarding teen dating violence.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Justice, school districts

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:

House Bill 4077 requires school district boards to adopt policy regarding teen dating violence. The bill also [1] permits the Department of Justice to use moneys in the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (ODSVS) Fund to support services, programs and curricula to educate and inform students in grades 7 through 12 about teen dating violence; [2] allows the Department of Human Services to make grants and enter into contracts to prevent teen dating violence; and [3] requires the Oregon Health Authority to conduct a survey about teen dating violence. The bill specifies that “dating” or “dating relationship” does not include a casual relationship or ordinary fraternization between two persons in a business or social context.

Oregon Health Authority (OHA)

Passage of HB 4077 is estimated to have a cost of \$30,000 General Fund per biennium for the Oregon Health Authority. The bill directs the Oregon Health Authority to conduct a survey of students in grades 8 and 11 in order to gather data about the prevalence of teen dating violence, the root causes of teen dating violence, and the needs of, as well as assistance available to, victims of teen dating violence.

OHA reports that its Public Health Division currently contracts with the National Center for Health Statistics to conduct the Oregon Healthy Teens (OHT) survey of 8th and 11th graders every other year. A comprehensive, school-based, anonymous and voluntary survey, OHT monitors risk behaviors and other factors that influence the health and well-being of Oregon’s children and adolescents. Based on a contractor bid in June 2011, the cost of adding eight new questions on teen dating to the current OHT survey in order to meet the requirements of this bill is approximately \$30,000 in contractual costs. This cost does not take into account additional staff time to normalize and analyze the additional raw survey data in order to prepare a report of the findings. Note that there is no secure ongoing funding to conduct this OHT survey. State and local programs depend on OHT to assess youth needs, develop comprehensive plans and prevention programs, solicit funding and measure outcomes. These programs contribute to the funding of the survey. If the OHT survey is funded in 2013 and subsequent years, teen dating violence questions can be added to the survey. If the survey cannot be funded, the cost of conducting a stand-alone survey to comply with the provisions of this bill is estimated to range between \$250,000 and \$350,000.

Department of Human Services (DHS)

The bill authorizes the Department of Human Services to make grants and enter into contracts with nonprofit private organizations or public agencies for programs and projects designed to prevent teen dating violence, including funding of programs and curricula to educate and inform students grades 7 through 12 about teen dating violence, and to provide assistance to victims of teen dating violence. The language in the bill is permissive, and does not require DHS to use new or existing resources for that purpose. As such, there is no fiscal impact to DHS. However, the Legislative Fiscal Office notes that the DHS currently uses Domestic Violence Fund moneys to subsidize crisis lines, support services and shelters for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Passage of this bill could result in redirecting existing funding to teen dating violence programs and services, which would affect those currently-funded programs and services.

Department of Justice

The bill permits the Department of Justice to use moneys in the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (ODSVS) Fund to support services, programs and curricula to educate and inform students in grades 7 through 12 about teen dating violence. Although passage of this bill would have no bottom line budgetary impact on the Department of Justice, note that currently ODSVS funds are used to support services and shelters for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Passage of this bill could result in redirecting existing funding to teen dating violence programs and services, which would affect those currently-funded programs and services. Also note that the 2011-13 ODSV budget was reduced by approximately 10 percent.

School Districts

House Bill 4077 requires each school district board to:

1. Adopt a policy (consistent with school policy on harassment, intimidation and bullying) stating that teen dating violence is unacceptable and is prohibited, that each student has the right to a safe learning environment.
2. Incorporate age-appropriate education about teen dating violence into new or existing training programs for students in grades 7 through 12, and school employees responsible for receiving reports related to harassment, intimidation and bullying.
3. Establish procedures for the manner in which employees of a school are to respond to incidents of teen dating violence that take place at school, on school grounds, at school-sponsored activities or in vehicles used for school-provided transportation.
4. Identify by job title the school officials who are responsible for receiving reports related to teen dating violence.
5. Notify students and parents of the teen dating violence policy adopted by the board.

The Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) believes that school districts may need additional staffing and budgetary resources in order to coordinate and deliver training to students in grades 7 through 12 and school employees. In addition, the bill requires school districts to notify students and parents of the teen dating violence policy adopted by the board. School districts may incur printing and distribution costs to comply with this provision. LFO requested fiscal impact information from school districts. Although only a small number of school districts responded, the estimated reported costs to carry out the provisions of this bill range from \$0 to \$18,000 depending on the size and existing resources of the school district. If additional fiscal impact information is provided by school districts, LFO will issue a revised fiscal impact.