

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 1554

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

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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 be provided in middle school for a minimum of two semesters or the equivalent of two semesters. The measure is effective July 1, 2013 and first applies to the 2013-2014 school year.

The Department of Education (ODE) 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 for the revision of standards and development of materials. ODE states that to implement these standards with existing staff, other activities would be reprioritized and deferred to a later time, including Division 22 Standards review and revision, redesign of district assurances processes, and the EII Helpdesk.

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 contacted school district representatives for a fiscal impact statement. The fiscal impact to school districts is indeterminate. The ability of school districts to provide appropriate staffing, class room availability or other resources will vary by district. Additionally, there appears to be some uncertainty regarding the availability of appropriate Oregon Studies materials for the middle school level.