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**HB 2644 A-engrossed: Class Size
Ways and Means Education Subcommittee
May 16, 2013**

Good morning Co-Chairs Komp and Monroe and members of the committee. For the record, I am Cindy Hunt speaking on behalf of the Oregon Education Department. I am here today to provide information about HB 2644, a bill that directs the Department of Education to maintain and publish reports on class sizes in Oregon.

Background

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) program, the Oregon Department of Education committed to developing and implementing a statewide longitudinal data system. One of the elements was creating an educator-student data link.

The department met this requirement through the development of the Class Roster Collection. The Class Roster Collection provides information for education stakeholders to help inform decisions relating to our public education system. Currently, the Class Roster Collection requires reporting by public education providers of all class rosters for those subjects and grades in which Oregon tests. Public education providers are required to report for Reading/Language Arts/English in grades 3 through 8 and 11, Writing in grade 11, and Math in grades 3 through 8 and 11.

This grant-funded work is being done through Project ALDER. The grant expires June 30, 2013. In April, the Oregon Department of Education applied for a one-year no-cost extension from the federal Office of Management and Budget. If the Department receives the extension, the grant would be extended through June 30, 2014.

Legislation

House Bill 2644 directs the Oregon Department of Education to collect information from public education providers on the total number of students and the total number of licensed or registered teachers regularly assigned to students. The Department of Education shall make this information available through a public website and through annual reports submitted to the Legislative Assembly. The bill first applies to information submitted for the 2014-2015 school year.

This is an expansion of what is currently collected and depending on how the State Board of Education defines classes and regularly assigned teachers, additional work will be necessary. There is also not a system or process in place that will meet the requirements of reporting on the data collected. However we anticipate that the Class Roster Collection is likely the source of

calculating "class size" under the bill so the department will not have to create a new collection and will build upon this existing work.

Presently, work on Class Roster is paid for by the federal ALDER Grant. Because this grant expires on June 30, 2013, the current fiscal impact estimated for the bill is based upon only using state funds. However, if the requested extension is granted, ODE would be able to use federal funds to scale up the collection in the 2013-2014 fiscal year. This would reduce the fiscal impact to state General Funds originally estimated by ODE.

The following table illustrates the difference in the fiscal impact to state funds depending on ODE receiving the one-year extension of the ALDER Grant.

Position	FTE	No extension (no federal funds)	Extension (using federal funds)
Information Systems Specialist 7	1.0 (18 mo.)	\$169,272	\$56,425
Research Analyst 4	.25 (12 mo.)	\$39,972	\$39,972
Information Systems Specialist 6	.15 (12 mo.)	\$28,347	\$28,347
Information Systems Specialist 4	.20 (12 mo.)	\$29,875	\$29,875
Total State Funds		\$267,446	\$154,619