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HB 2644:
House Education Committee
Anna Haley
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Good afternoon Chair Gelser and members of the House Education Committee. For the record, I am Anna Haley 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 (SLDS). One of the elements was an educator-student data link. The department met this requirement through the development of the Class Roster Collection. Currently, the Class Roster Collection requires reporting of all class rosters for those subjects and grades in which Oregon tests. Schools and districts 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.

The Oregon Department of Education has proposed expansion of the Class Roster Collection to all grades and all subjects. Anticipated expansion would occur in the 2013-14 school year.

Legislation

House Bill 2644 directs the Oregon Department of Education to collect information 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.

Because the Class Roster Collection is likely the source of calculating "class size" the department will not have to create a new collection. However, 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 might be necessary. Currently, there is also not a system or process in place that will meet the requirements of reporting on the data collected.

Presently, work on Class Roster is paid for by the ALDER Grant. It is anticipated that ODE will be able to apply for a one-year no-cost extension through June 30, 2014. At that date, without any additional federal money, the department can anticipate incurring a fiscal impact for the work related to calculating and reporting class size.