

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 3 - 2 - 0

Yeas: Shields, Steiner Hayward, Monnes Anderson

Nays: Knopp, Kruse

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/19, 4/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies required documentation to be submitted to school administrator for opting out of immunizations. Changes “statement” to “document”. Specifies document must be signed by parent declining immunizations for religious or philosophical belief and have signature from health care practitioner verifying that parent has reviewed risks and benefits of immunization information or parent has completed vaccine education module approved by Oregon Health Authority. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Oregon’s immunization rates
- Protection of children and school populations
- Options for parents and informed decisions
- Religious freedom/exemption
- Oregon’s non-medical exemption to school immunization rates
- Proposed amendments

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Changes “statement” to “document”. Specifies document must be signed by parent declining immunizations for religious or philosophical belief and have signature from health care practitioner verifying that parent has reviewed risks and benefits of immunization information or parent has completed vaccine education module approved by Oregon Health Authority.

BACKGROUND: According to the Oregon Public Health Division, for the last decade, Oregon’s non-medical exemption to the school immunization rate for kindergartners has increased from less than 2 percent in 2001 to 5.8 percent in 2012. In some counties, the rate of non-medical exemption is as high as 12 percent. Oregon has the highest non-medical exemption rate for one or more immunizations in the United States, and some Oregon schools have an exemption rate as high as 70 percent.

Senate Bill 132-A requires parents to sign a document declining immunizations for religious or philosophical belief and have a signature from a health care practitioner verifying that the parent has reviewed risks and benefits of immunization information or the parent has completed an online educational video approved by the Oregon Health Authority.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.