

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 4 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Beyer, Kruse, Roblan, Hass
Nays: 0
Exc.: Knopp
Prepared By: Richard Donovan, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 5/9, 5/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs Department of Education (ODE) to conduct evaluation of means by which impact of poverty on educational attainment is addressed by state law. Requires department to submit report to interim legislative committees no later than July 1, 2014. Declares emergency, effective on passage

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Documented negative effects of poverty on education
- Number of children in Oregon on free/reduced lunch
- Ability to harvest existing data under ODE control as first step

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: In 2001, the U.S. Department of Education indicated results “that student and school poverty adversely affected student achievement.” Various earlier studies have found that children who live in persistently poor families score lower on various assessments than children who were never poor, and that those in households that are very poor (below 50% of the poverty line) score worse than children in near-poor (50-100% poverty line) households. According to a 2012 Congressional Research Service Report (*Poverty in the United States: 2011*), over one in five children (21.4%) in the United States (15.5 million) were poor. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that, in 2010, Oregon had 183,859 children living in poverty.

House Bill 2665 directs the Oregon Department of Education to study how state law addresses the impact of poverty on educational attainment and report its findings to the Legislature no later than July 1, 2014.