

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 4 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Beyer, Kruse, Roblan, Hass

Nays: 0

Exc.: Knopp

Prepared By: Richard Donovan, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/16, 5/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Oregon prekindergarten programs that receive grants from Department of Education to be subject to public meetings law. Applies public records law to meeting minutes or other records created or presented at meetings.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Accessibility as goal of measure
- “Strong expectation” of public engagement from national Head Start organization
- 90% of budget comes from state or federal funds
- Expectation of transparency that comes with public funds
- Concern with ability to comply with quorum, posting requirements of public meetings law

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: In 1973, Oregon joined many other states across the country in enacting the Public Records and Public Meetings Laws. The law applies to any “public body,” and it defines that term broadly: every state officer, agency, department, division, bureau, board and commission; every county and city governing body, school district, special district, municipal corporation, and any board, department, commission, council or agency thereof; and any other public agency of the state. A "public record" is any writing that contains information relating to the conduct of public business that is prepared, owned, used or retained by a public body. A “public meeting” is any meeting conducted by a state, regional or local governing body to decide or consider any matter.

In Oregon there are currently 28 Head Start pre-kindergarten programs that serve children in every county in the state. The purpose is to support school readiness by promoting healthy child development, early learning, and effective teaching strategies. House Bill 3034-A requires these programs to comply with Public Records and Public Meetings laws.