

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Komp  
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Monroe

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Fiscal:** Fiscal statement issued

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**Action:** Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure as Amended and as Printed B-Engrossed

**Vote:** 23 – 2 – 1

House

Yeas: Barker, Buckley, Frederick, Freeman, Hanna, Huffman, Jensen, Nathanson, Read, Richardson, Smith, Tomei, Williamson

Nays:

Exc: McLane

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Devlin, Edwards, Hansell, Johnson, Monroe, Steiner Hayward, Thomsen, Winters

Nays: Girod, Whitsett

Exc:

**Prepared By:** Doug Wilson, Legislative Fiscal Office

**Meeting Date:** June 25, 2013

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Establishes Early Learning Division in the Department of Education (ODE). Places control of Early Learning Division under Early Learning Council (ELC), with Early Learning System Director Serving as administrative officer. Transfers the following programs into the new Division: (1) the Child Care Office from the Employment Department and the various programs it currently administers, (2) Oregon's Pre-Kindergarten, and Early Head Start programs in ODE, and (3) the various programs currently part of the Governor's Office many of which were programs formally administered by the Commission on Children and Families (e.g. Healthy Start, Crisis Nurseries, Race to the Top federal grant). Tasks Early Learning Division with administration of Oregon prekindergarten program. Directs ODE to establish criteria for early childhood education programs governed by federal Individuals With Disabilities Education Act. Directs Early Learning Division to prepare operating guides for child development and teenage parent programs. Requires State Interagency Coordinating Council to submit report to legislature that provides recommendation about appropriate entity to adopt rules and develop policy related to early childhood special education and early intervention services. Establishes in Early Learning Division a Child Care Office responsible for administering federal funds. Adds one member to State Board of Education who is also a member of the Oregon Education Investment Board. Transfers duties, functions, and powers relating to administration and enforcement of ELC to Early Learning Division of ODE and includes the general transfer language between agencies. Makes ELC state advisory council for federal Head Start Act. Directs ELC to adopt rules for certification of family child care home of not more than 16 children.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Organization of the Division and how it fits into ODE
- Trends in education reform and how much difference they make
- Importance of early learning programs

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Clarifies ODE's authority for providing criminal background checks for the employees, contractors and activities of the Child Care Office; changes the name of the Child Care Office (CCO) to the Office of Child Care (OCC); requires the Early Learning Division to enter into contracts with relief nurseries beginning in July 2013 to ensure service continuity and efficient delivery of contracted services; and Changes reference from Early Learning Council to Early Learning Division in language relating to contracts at the suggestion of the Department of Justice; and requires the Legislature to identify the portion of the Child Care and Development Block Grant funds will be used for quality, subsidy, and administrative spending and directs the agency to follow that division. The amendment also requires the agency to report to the Legislative Fiscal Office annually on the expenditures of these funds and estimated ending balances.

**BACKGROUND:** Research indicates that high quality, early care and learning experiences are the foundation of educational success and the first line of defense in closing the achievement gap and reducing the dropout rate.