

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2013–B

Seventy-Seventh Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2013 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Directs Early Learning Council and Department of Education to assist school districts in implementing process to assess children to determine their readiness for kindergarten and sets up a related grant program. Also requires demonstration projects and collaboration on various early learning services and programs.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Education, Early Learning Council, School Districts, Oregon Health Authority, and Department of Human Services

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

See Analysis.

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis: This bill directs the Early Learning Council (ELC) and the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to assist school districts in implementing a Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA). This includes training, implementation, learning services available to improve a child’s readiness, and accessing services.

Oregon Department of Education:

The fiscal impact for the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) is primarily associated with continuing to help the Early Learning Council (ELC) to implement a process for assessment of children to determine readiness for kindergarten. This work was originally part of HB 4165 (2012), but HB 2013 adds specific requirements regarding training. Potentially ODE will need half of an Education Specialist 2 position to develop and provide training. Training includes helping parents, communities, and school districts to understand assessment goals, program implementation, and availability of early learning services. No specific level of funding or positions have been identified for these components of the bill, but will continued to be reviewed as budgets are finalized and as federal resources likely materialize.

There is also a requirement for each child with a disability to have a comprehensive plan for communication by age three. The workload and fiscal impact associated with this work is indeterminate.

Early Learning Council (ELC):

The bill requires the ELC to establish and fund Early Learning Hub Demonstration Projects; the number of projects is limited to 7 in the first fiscal year of the biennium and to 16 in the second year. Within the current budget plan for Early Learning programs, \$4.3 million General Fund has been designated to help fund these projects. Existing ELC resources will develop and handle the application, selection, and evaluation processes, and legislative reporting associated with the projects. ELC is also required to administer a new Early Learning Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation program. This program will provide grant funding for programs that improve kindergarten readiness. Within in the current budget plan for Early Learning programs, \$4 million General Fund is earmarked for these grants.

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Department of Human Services (DHS):

The overall fiscal impact to OHA and DHS is indeterminate due to increased standardized testing and working collaboratively with Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) and whether or not CCOs would accept amendments to current contracts for the additional testing. In addition, there may be some work related to screenings or referrals to early learning services; this is also indeterminate.

School Districts and Educational Service Districts:

Many school districts currently provide an assessment for incoming kindergartners. New standardized testing may require some schools to discontinue their current assessments and adopt a new statewide assessment tool. Training for and conduct of new assessments may require teachers to spend time away from the classroom, which could drive costs associated with hiring substitute teachers to fill the gaps. The overall fiscal impact is indeterminate.