

**PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Senate Health Care

**REVENUE: No revenue impact****FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Zena Rockowitz, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 2/23

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Creates school nursing consultant within the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). Directs consultant to collaborate with school nurse specialist in Department of Education, provide school nursing policy and program guidance for state agencies, lead integration of school health teams, provide technical assistance to schools nurses on care delivery, provide clinical consultation and technical support to school nurses and programs, serve as liaison and expert in school nursing and programs for healthcare providers and policymaking bodies, coordinate school nursing program activities with public and private entities, monitor, synthesize and disseminate relevant changes in health care and legal practices that impact schools, coordinate quality assurance program, represent school nurses in state-level partnerships. Establishes 20-member Task Force on School Nursing to examine funding sources for school nursing, recommend standards of school nursing practices, and create school health services model to promote collaboration. Directs Task Force to be composed of Senate member (1), House of Representatives members (2), education service district representatives (2), school district representatives (3), nonprofit for Oregon school nurses (2), OHA representatives (2), nonprofit for professional nurses (2), Department of Human Services representative (1), Oregon State Board of Nursing (1), Oregon Pediatric Society (1), labor organization (1), nonprofit for school based health centers (1), and coordinated care organization (1).

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:****EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

**BACKGROUND:** A “School Nurse” (ORS 342.455) is a Registered Nurse certified by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) as qualified to conduct and coordinate the health service programs of a school. Schools do not have to hire TSPC certified nurses. School nurses help manage students with chronic conditions (diabetes, food allergies, asthma, obesity), provide injury and illness care and prevention, mental health support, case management, and emergency care. Due to the impact of health on education, school nurses influence attendance, achievement, and graduation rates. The Oregon Department of Education reported that for the 2013-2014 school year, 267 full-time nurses were employed in schools (35 licensed practical nurses and 232 registered nurses), and there was a ratio of one registered nurse to 2,119 students. The goal of school districts is to have one registered nurse for 750 students by 2020. The 2007 Legislature passed House Bill 2773 to establish a task force to study school nurses in Oregon. The task force recommended the creation of a permanent school nurse consultant to support the successful implementation and sustainability of expanding school nursing services.