

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Senate Health Care

REVENUE: No revenue impact (introduced)**FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Zena Rockowitz, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 3/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates School Nursing Consultant in Oregon Health Authority (OHA). Requires consultant to coordinate with school nurse specialist in Department of Education (DOE), provide school nursing policy and program guidance to agencies, support and lead integration of coordinated school health teams, provide technical assistance to school nurse using evidenced-based standards, collaborate with professional associations and agencies, provide clinical consultation to school nurses and programs, provide leadership in delivery of services to schools, serve as liaison and expert for providers and policymaking bodies, coordinate program activities with agencies and other entities, monitor, synthesize and distribute information, promote quality assurance, represent school nurses in state-level partnerships. Establishes 14-member Task Force on School Nursing. Directs Task Force to examine funding sources for school nurses and recommend: ways to balance resources between education and health care, standards of nursing practices including outcome measures on health transformation and academic performance, ways to create coordinated school health services. Specifies action, quorum, election, and compensation requirements. Requires Task Force to submit report September 15, 2016. Requires DOE to coordinate with OHA. Repeals Task Force December 31, 2016. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: -1 Amendment: Specifies that member appointment should represent education service district that provide health services. Requires member of labor organization to represent classified school employees who work directly with school nurses. Requires task force to examine other health care funding sources including billing of student's health insurance, for the purpose of using moneys from health care funding sources. Directs task force to recommend sustainable funding sources for school health services to fund school health screenings and school nursing services. **-2 Amendment:** Defines school nurse as registered and qualified to conduct and coordinate health services programs of a school. Removes references to certification.

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.

3/17/2015 11:13:00 AM *

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.