

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Education

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Gretchen Engbring, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 3/17, 3/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Deletes provision that authorizes teachers who are licensed and endorsed by Teacher Standards and Practices Commission to practice speech-language pathology without obtaining license from State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. Becomes operative July 1, 2016. Creates grandfather clause for teachers who are licensed and endorsed by commission before July 1, 2016.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Changes in profession and practice of speech-language pathology
- Challenges resulting from two licensing systems with different standards
- Ensuring quality of care through licensing
- Broad support

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology was established in 1973 to license and regulate the performance of speech-language pathologists and audiologists for consumer protection. However, ORS 681.230 currently allows teachers licensed by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) who are holding a communication disorders or speech impaired endorsement issued by the commission to practice speech-language pathology as employees of education service districts, school districts, or charter schools. Of the current TSPC-licensed speech-language pathologists, approximately 37% have not been licensed by the Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

In August 2014, the TSPC voted unanimously to support the concept of the Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology licensing all new speech-language pathologists working in kindergarten through grade twelve schools. Senate Bill 287 proposes to delete the provision that authorizes teachers who are licensed and endorsed by the TSPC to practice speech-language pathology without obtaining a license from the State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.