

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, statement not yet issued
FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

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Meeting Dates: 3/5, 4/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires school districts implement specified early reading program to claim full funding weight for full-day kindergarten program. Establishes Kindergarten Through Grade Three Reading Initiative Program in Department of Education (ODE). Requires department award grants to community-based organizations and tribes to implement early reading programs. Establishes program criteria. Establishes Kindergarten through Grade Three Reading Initiative Account in Treasury, distinct from General Fund. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2015.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Cultural disparities in reading levels
- Impact of dyslexia on reading levels
- Differences in reading levels when students start school
- Need for adequate funding
- Services to low-income students
- Need for equity in access to early reading funds and grants
- Summer learning loss

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

-4 amendments (proposed) replace original measure. Establish Age Three Through Grade Three Reading Initiative within ODE. Specifies list of services ODE must ensure are provided. Define what “community-based organization” may include. Require ODE award extended learning grants to school districts to implement early reading program. Require ODE award profession development grants. Specify what may qualify for grants, grant application process, and criteria for determining grant amounts. Require ODE ensure staff development for early childhood service providers and public providers of kindergarten through grade three is coordinated. Require ODE identify evidence-based early literacy curriculum. Establish Age Three Through Grade Three Reading Initiative Account in State Treasury. Declare emergency, effective July 1, 2015.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 44 (2009) established the Full-Day Kindergarten Implementation Committee to aid and advise the Legislative Assembly, school districts, and public charter schools in developing and providing full-day kindergarten programs. Aligning with the committee’s recommendations, Senate Bill 248 (2011) required school districts to offer half-day kindergarten, authorized school districts to offer full-day kindergarten, and authorized public charter schools to offer either half-day or full-day kindergarten, beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. The bill further specified that aggregate days membership of kindergarten students be calculated on the basis of either a half-time or full-time program, whichever the school offered, beginning with State School Fund distributions made for the 2015-2016 year.

House Bill 3232 (2013) established the Oregon Early Reading Program, which includes funds to be directed by the Early Learning Council for the purpose of strengthening early literacy among children ages 0-6 and with the intention of improving children’s kindergarten readiness and third grade reading proficiency. House Bill 2013 (2013) created the Early Learning Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation Fund, also directed by the Early Learning Council, in order to provide funding for communities to pilot approaches for linking early learning and kindergarten.

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