

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Senate Health Care

REVENUE: Has Minimal Fiscal impact (introduced)**FISCAL: No Revenue Impact (introduced)****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Zena Rockowitz, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 4/29, 5/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs school districts to allow students to wear sun-protective clothing and sunscreen. Specifies that nonprescription sunscreen is not a medication. Declares an emergency, effective July 1, 2015.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Sun exposure cause of skin cancer and high mortality
- Misperceptions about Oregon’s rate of skin cancer, particularly melanoma
- Ambiguity and variability of sunscreen policies in schools
- Need for doctor’s prescription in some schools to wear sunscreen
- Most exposure to sun occurs to youth

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: -3 Amendment: Clarifies application of nonprescription sunscreen does not require documentation from licensed professional and may contain para-aminobenzoic acid. Removes directive to school boards to adopt policies related to nonprescription sunscreen and sun-protective clothing. Specifies that nothing prohibits a school district from prohibiting certain hats or clothing based on inappropriateness and school personnel are not required to assist students in applying sunscreen. Clarifies that school personnel may not be held liable for sunscreen that contains para-aminobenzoic acid.

BACKGROUND: Childhood over-exposure to ultra-violet (UV) radiation is a leading cause of skin cancer. More than 40 percent of an individual’s lifetime UV exposure occurs within the first 20 years of life. Young people spend a substantial proportion of their lives in schools, and some of that time is spent outside during the sunny hours of the day. Skin cancer is one of the deadliest forms of cancer in the U.S., and is also the most preventable. Practicing sun-safe behavior is an effective way to prevent cancer. Oregon has the 5th highest incidence rate of melanoma – and the 4th highest death rate from melanoma – in the country. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends three methods for sunburn prevention: sun avoidance, protective clothing and sunscreen use.