PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY   CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Education

REVENUE: Revenue statement issued
FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued
SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue

Action:	
Vote:	
Yeas:	
Nays:	
Exc.:	
Prepared By:	Gretchen Engbring, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/14, 5/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Increases amount transferred from State School Fund (SSF) to High Cost Disabilities Account each fiscal year from $18 million to $35 million. First applies to 2015-16 school year SSF distributions. Takes effect on July 1, 2015.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:
- High costs of accommodating some students with unique medical or behavioral challenges
- High Cost Disabilities Account as providing reimbursement to school districts with high cost students
- Claims made during 2013-2014 totaled approximately 44 million – substantially more than the High Cost Disabilities Account currently holds
- Measure would nearly double amount in account and increase reimbursement amounts to districts
- Potential for increased funding to reduce litigation between parents with high cost children and school districts

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND: In 2003, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 550, which created the High Cost Disability Grant. Initially, this measure transferred $12 million per year from the SSF to the High Costs Disabilities Account to pay for the approved special education costs that exceeded a threshold of $25,000 per student per year. House Bill 2450C (2005) raised this threshold to $30,000 per student, and a revision to ORS 327.008(8) in 2007 additionally increased the amount transferred to the account from $12 to $18 million per year. If the grand total of the grants initially exceed $18 million, the grants to all school districts are proportionately reduced.

House Bill 2927-A proposes to increase the amount transferred from the SSF to the High Cost Disabilities Account, beginning with the 2015-16 SSF distributions.

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.
Committee Services Form – 2015 Regular Session