

REVENUE: Revenue statement issued

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/21, 5/26

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 Oregon Department of Education (ODE). Requires ODE 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:

- Provisions of amendment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

-5 amendment: Replaces original measure. Establish Age Three Through Grade Three Reading Initiative within Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to ensure that all students can read at grade level by end of grade three. Require ODE award extended learning grants and professional development grants to school districts. Specify grant eligibility requirements, grant application process, and criteria for determining grant amounts. Require school districts have memorandum of understanding with one or more community-based organizations and early reading program to qualify for extended learning grant unless granted waiver. Require ODE provide specified services to ensure staff development for early childhood service providers and public providers of kindergarten through grade three. Require ODE identify early literacy curriculum. Allow ODE to provide funds to school districts to purchase early literacy curriculum identified. Establish Age Three Through Grade Three Reading Initiative Account in State Treasury distinct from General Fund and continuously appropriate moneys from account to ODE. Make grants first available for use by school districts for summer of 2016. Define what “community-based organization” may include. 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, all 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.

Senate Bill 214 requires that school districts implement early reading programs in order to claim funding weight for full-day kindergarten. The bill additionally establishes the Kindergarten Through Grade Three Reading Initiative Program in ODE and requires ODE award grants to community-based organizations and tribes to implement early reading programs. The bill establishes the Kindergarten through Grade Three Reading Initiative Account, from which funds are continuously appropriated to ODE for the purpose of awarding grants.