

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Education

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Gretchen Engbring, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 5/21, 6/2, 6/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires students seven years of age or younger beginning educational program with education provider for first time submit certification that student has received dental screening within previous 12 months. Requires certification be provided within 120 days of date student begins educational program. Specifies allowable exceptions to submitting certification. Requires education providers provide to parents or guardians specified information related to dental care. Directs State Board of Education, in consultation with Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Oregon Board of Dentistry, to adopt by rule standards for implementation. Establish specified reporting requirements for school districts and Oregon Department of Education (ODE). Defines “dental screening” and other terms. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of oral hygiene and care for both dental and overall health
- Need to shift to screening and preventative care, rather than treatment
- Concern regarding additional time and resources needed for school nurses to potentially conduct screenings
- Availability of free and low-cost dental services through non-profits in Oregon
- Measure as modeled after other required screenings in Oregon (e.g. vision)
- Data resulting from measure will help to assess problems and priorities

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

-6 amendments (proposed) revise requirements for who may conduct a dental screening. Clarify that certification may be provided by person who conducts dental screening at location not associated with education provider or who conducts regular dental screenings of student. Require dental director appointed by OHA to develop standardized information for distribution by education providers. Require each school district submit to ODE, by October 1 each year, report that identifies percentage of students who failed to submit certification for previous year. Require ODE summarize reports and submit summary to dental director and interim legislative committees on education by December 1 each year. Require first reports to ODE be submitted no later than October 1, 2017. Require first report to dental director and legislative committees be submitted no later than December 1, 2017.

BACKGROUND: Dental disease is one of Oregon’s most pressing public health problems. A recent study notes, “the majority of Oregonians — poor or rich, female or male, old or young, whatever their race or ethnicity — suffer from oral disease.” The causes of this epidemic include inadequate education and prevention, lack of supplies and a shortage of providers serving low-income people. Left untreated, this preventable disease can be devastating to lifelong health, educational success, productivity and self-image. It’s also been linked with serious illnesses like diabetes and heart disease.

House Bill 2972-A requires that each education provider require a student who is seven years of age or younger and who is beginning an educational program with the education provider for the first time to submit certification that the student received a dental screening within the previous 12 months.

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

Committee Services Form – 2015 Regular Session