

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date:

Action:

Meeting Dates:

Prepared By: Doug Wilson, Budget Analyst

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires school district to provide lunch free of charge to students who are eligible for reduced price lunches. Directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to reimburse school district for actual amount student would have been required to pay. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2015.

The State School Fund bill (HB 5017) provided a "carve-out" or distribution of \$2,395,593 for the 2015-17 costs of this bill. The ODE budget will also include the necessary Other Funds expenditure limitation to reimburse the districts for this program.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Positive impact of school nutrition on students

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) administers school nutrition programs in schools, including free and reduced meal programs. Free and reduced price meals are available for eligible students. Qualifying students receive meals or milk without charge or may pay a reduced price of no more than 40 cents for lunch. The Oregon Legislature provided funding to eliminate the reduced price payment for School Breakfast. Normally, breakfast is also accessible at no charge to students who qualify for reduced price meals.

Eligibility is determined by household size and income. Children in households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) are also eligible for free meals.