

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Joint Committee On Ways and Means****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:****Action:****Meeting Dates:****Vote:****Prepared By:** Doug Wilson, Budget Analyst**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

HB 3380 directs the Early Learning Division of the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to administer a program that expands preschool options available in the state. This “mixed delivery” preschool program is to be coordinated by the early learning hubs in their region; who are to apply for funding for the program and contract with preschool providers. The preschool programs eligible for financing through the program must meet a set of criteria including the following: Must be a new program or be expanding their program; provides at least the annual number of instructional hours as a full-day Kindergarten program does; considers the scheduling needs of families; serves children age 3 to age 5 (kindergarten eligible); serves families whose incomes are less than 200% of the federal poverty level; provides services from infant to early elementary grades; works with community programs and others to make sure families have knowledge of community supports available to families; meets certain quality measures including having lead teachers who have at least a bachelor’s degree or have a plan to get the degree as well as having the lead teacher paid at least at the minimum amount set by the Early Learning Council; and provides additional supports for children and their families.

The preschool programs can include programs from Head Start, Oregon PreK, child care provider, relief nursery, private preschool, public charter school, school district, ESD, or a community-based organization. A waiver is possible for some of the requirements listed above. The preschool can serve children over the income limits or children who are receiving assistance through another program but may not use the funding from this program for those children. The Early Learning Council is given responsibilities around this program including establishing minimum salary levels for the lead teacher which are to be comparable to public kindergarten teachers. The Early Learning Division is to submit a biennial report to the Legislature on the program. Funding for this program is available for the second year of the biennium in a special purpose appropriation to the Emergency Board which is included in the budget bill for the Oregon Department of Education.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impact of higher salaries of preschool lead teachers on the supply of programs

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Early Learning Council was created by Senate Bill 909 (2011), with further direction by House Bill 4165 (2012). House Bill 2013 (2013) specifically directed the ELC to create sixteen regional and community-based Early Learning Hubs in order to support early childhood development, particularly for families of historically underserved communities. House Bill 3380 directs the Early Learning Division to administer a preschool program.