

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Education

MEASURE: HB 2545

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/11/15

Action: Do Pass And Be Referred To Ways And Means By Prior Reference

Meeting Dates: 02/06, 02/11

House

Yeas: 9 - Barreto, Doherty, Frederick, Hack, Wilson, Piluso, Reardon, Sprenger, McLain

Prepared By: Richard Donovan, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Positive impact of school nutrition on students
- Extra cost of “special,” non-conforming meals
- The stigma of the cheese “scarlet sandwich”
- No potential to jeopardize current federal funds for school nutrition

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.