

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

MEASURE: HB 2928 A

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/06/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments, Be Printed Engrossed And Be Referred To Ways
And Means By Prior Reference.

Meeting Dates: 02/23, 03/06

Vote:

Yeas: 6 - Doherty, Frederick, McLain, Piluso, Reardon, Sprenger

Nays: 2 - Barreto, Hack

Exc: 1 - Wilson

Prepared By: Richard Donovan, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Task Force on Class Sizes to determine appropriate class sizes of students, identify methods to reduce class sizes, and determine cost for methods to reduce class sizes. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Goal of exploring technology in classrooms
- Lack of current, reliable data in classrooms
- Oregon as having 3rd highest ratio of students to teachers nationally
- Strong public desire to address issue of class size

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Requires the Legislative Administration Committee, rather than the Department of Education, to provide staff support.

BACKGROUND:

Class size has been a significant policy concern for legislators, agencies, and members of the public for quite some time. In 2013, the National Education Association calculated that Oregon had the third-highest student-teacher ratio in the nation. In the 2014 Teaching, Empowering, Leading, and Learning (TELL) Oregon Survey, educators express serious concerns over class size. Of the 17 states which conducted the TELL survey, Oregon respondents reported the most concern over class size.