

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued
Revenue: Revenue impact issued

Action Date: 03/13/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed. Refer To Revenue, Then Ways And Means By Prior Reference.

Meeting Dates: 02/16, 03/13

Vote:
Yeas: 8 - Barreto, Doherty, Frederick, Hack, McLain, Piluso, Reardon, Wilson
Exc: 1 - Sprenger

Prepared By: Richard Donovan, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Outdoor Education Account (Account) for purpose of providing outdoor school programs. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Higher Education Coordinating Commission for deposit in Account. Establishes grants advisory committee for purposes of administering grant program. Details criteria for issuance of grants, including number of days for outdoor school and nature of field study opportunities. Details priority order for grants. Details role of Oregon State University in outdoor school program coordination. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2015.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Nature and history of outdoor school
- Impact of outdoor school to traditionally underserved communities
- Outdoor school provides link between urban and rural portions of the state
- Outdoor school helps develop administrator, teacher, and student relationships

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Details criteria for issuance of grants, including number of days for outdoor school and nature of field study opportunities. Details priority order for grants. Establishes grants advisory committee for purposes of administering grant program. Appropriates funds to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for purposes of grants. Adds, “or an equivalent outdoor educational experience that reflects local community needs and contexts,” to six-day, residential, hands-on educational experience requirement. Elaborates on role of Oregon State University in outdoor school program coordination.

BACKGROUND:

Outdoor school programs started as early as 1957 in Curry County. By the 1960’s, programs existed in multiple districts throughout the state. The original programs were six-day, five-night, overnight outdoor educational programs for students. Recently, many outdoor school programs have been reduced to three-day, two-night overnight programs. Some districts budget for a single-day program, or have eliminated outdoor education entirely.

House Bill 2648 A fully funds six-day, five-night outdoor school programs statewide.