

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

MEASURE: SB 321 A
CARRIER: Sen. Hass

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued
Revenue: Revenue impact issued

Action Date: 03/24/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Meeting Dates: 03/05, 03/12, 03/24

Vote:

Yeas: 4 - Beyer, Gelsler, Hass, Roblan

Nays: 3 - Baertschiger Jr, Knopp, Kruse

Prepared By: Gretchen Engbring, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Decreases compulsory school age from seven to six years of age.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Effects of premature or delayed entry on students
- Exemptions from compulsory education
- Registration impact for home-schooled students
- Disproportionate effects of delayed entry on minority groups
- External conditions impacting student wellbeing and education (e.g., home life)
- Parental choice
- International research, trends and standards on compulsory education
- Compromise (six) between current compulsory education age (seven) and recommended age (five) of the bill as introduced
- Costs of providing full-day kindergarten for more students

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Decreases compulsory school age from seven to six years of age. Allows specified exemptions from full-time attendance at public schools for kindergarten through grade twelve students. States compulsory education requirement is met if child maintains regular attendance in any grade.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, ORS 339.010 requires children between the ages of seven and 18 who have not completed the twelfth grade to regularly attend a public school full-time during the school term. Exemptions from compulsory attendance are provided in ORS 339.030 and include children who are taught in private or parochial schools, have demonstrated equivalent knowledge to that acquired in grades one through 12, have received a high school diploma, are being taught by a private teacher or educated at home by a parent or guardian, or are otherwise excluded from attendance as provided by law.

Except as provided in ORS 339.030, Senate Bill 321-A proposes to decrease the compulsory school age by requiring that all children between the ages of six and 18 who have not completed the twelfth grade must regularly attend a public school full-time during the school term.