

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Senate Committee On Health Care****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 04/08/15**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments. Refer To Ways And Means By Prior Reference
(Printed A-Eng).**Meeting Dates:** 03/18, 04/08**Vote:**

Yeas: 5 - Knopp, Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Shields, Steiner Hayward

Prepared By: Zena Rockowitz, Committee Administrator**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Creates School Nursing Consultant in Oregon Health Authority (OHA). Requires consultant to: coordinate with school nurse specialist in Department of Education (DOE); provide school nursing policy and program guidance to agencies; support and lead integration of coordinated school health teams; provide technical assistance to school nurse using evidenced-based standards; collaborate with professional associations and agencies; provide clinical consultation to school nurses and programs; provide leadership in delivery of services to schools; serve as liaison and expert for providers and policymaking bodies; coordinate program activities with agencies and other entities; monitor, synthesize and distribute information; promote quality assurance and represent school nurses in state-level partnerships. Establishes 14-member Task Force on School Nursing (Task Force). Requires Task Force to examine other health care funding sources including billing of student's health insurance, for the purpose of using moneys from health care funding sources. Directs Task Force to recommend sustainable funding sources for school health services to fund school health screenings and school nursing services. Specifies action, quorum, election and compensation requirements. Requires task force to submit report by September 15, 2016. Requires DOE to coordinate with OHA. Repeals Task Force on December 31, 2016. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- School nurses' role in providing wellness, intervention and disease prevention activities
- Funds come through Department of Education
- Meeting nurse-to-student ratio goals
- Impact of school nurses on students
- Lack of data to understand needs

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Specifies that member appointment should represent education service district that provides health services. Removes requirement that classified school employee member appointment represents labor organization. Requires Governor to consider composition when appointing members. Requires Task Force to examine other health care funding sources, instead of existing funding sources, including billing of student's health insurance, for the purpose of using moneys from health care funding sources. Directs Task Force to recommend sustainable funding sources for school health services to fund school health screenings and school nursing services.

BACKGROUND:

A "school nurse" (ORS 342.455) is a registered nurse certified by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) as qualified to conduct and coordinate the health service programs of a school. Schools do not have to hire TSPC certified nurses. School nurses help manage students with chronic conditions (diabetes, food allergies,

asthma, obesity), provide injury and illness care and prevention, mental health support, case management and emergency care. Due to the impact of health on education, school nurses influence attendance, achievement and graduation rates. The Oregon Department of Education reported that for the 2013-2014 school year, 267 full-time nurses were employed in schools (35 licensed practical nurses and 232 registered nurses). Currently, Oregon has one school nurse for every 4,054 students. The goal of school districts is to have one registered nurse for 750 students by 2020. The 2007 Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 2773 to establish a Task Force to study school nurses in Oregon. The Task Force recommended the creation of a permanent school nurse consultant to support the successful implementation and sustainability of expanding school nursing services.