

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 04/16/15

**Action:** Do Pass.

**Meeting Dates:** 04/02, 04/16

**Vote:**

Yeas: 6 - Baertschiger Jr, Beyer, Gelser, Knopp, Kruse, Roblan

Exc: 1 - Hass

**Prepared By:** Gretchen Engbring, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires each school district board to adopt child sexual abuse prevention instructional program for students in kindergarten to grade 12. Stipulates what program must include. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- “Erin’s Law” regulating sexual abuse instruction in other states
- Existing provisions in Oregon law addressing child sexual abuse prevention instruction
- Goal of alignment of health and education laws, standards, and benchmarks

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Child Welfare Data Book (Oregon Department of Human Services, 2013) reported 860 incidents of child sexual abuse in 2013; this represents a 10 percent increase from incidents reported in 2012. However, it is estimated that only 30 percent of sexual assault cases are reported to authorities (Finkelhor, 2009).

“Erin’s Law” requires that all public schools in a state implement a prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program to: teach students age-appropriate techniques to recognize and report sexual abuse; provide training to administrators, teachers and other school personnel about sexual abuse; and, inform parents about child sexual abuse topics. Erin’s Law was first passed in Illinois, and 21 states have now passed some version of it.

Senate Bill 856 requires each school district board to adopt child sexual abuse prevention instructional programs for students in kindergarten to grade 12. In addition to student instruction, the bill specifies that the program must include a professional training component for administrators, teachers, and other school personnel, as well as a parental involvement component to inform parents about child sexual abuse topics.