

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**House Committee On Education****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued**Action Date:** 04/17/15**Action:** Without Recommendation As To Passage, Be Referred To Rules, And Then To Revenue By Prior Reference.**Meeting Dates:** 02/20, 03/02, 04/17**Vote:**

Yeas: 7 - Doherty, Frederick, McLain, Piluso, Reardon, Sprenger, Wilson

Nays: 2 - Barreto, Hack

Prepared By: Richard Donovan, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs State Board of Education to not consider days pupil is absent when determining aggregate days membership for purposes of distributions from State School Fund. Provides that aggregate days membership be calculated based on number of hours of instruction pupil receives during school year. Takes effect July 1, 2016.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History, and current existence, of truancy problem statewide
- Goal of measure as forcing schools to address chronic truancy
- Measure as a redistribution of, not increase in, funds
- Most schools as experiencing very small effects of change, one way or the other
- Outliers that will likely receive less funding include smaller districts and districts with traditionally underserved and higher-poverty populations
- Concern with movement of funds from traditionally underserved communities to already better functioning districts
- Concern with need to investigate underlying causes of truancy
- Potential for informal work group to address goals of measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, distributions to school districts from the State School Fund (SSF) take into account a number of factors, including "Aggregate days membership." ORS 327.006 defines Aggregate days membership as, in part, "the sum total number of days present and absent... of all resident pupils when school is actually in session during a certain period." House Bill 2657 removes the "and absent" portion of the calculation, and also clarifies definitions of mandatory hours so as to enable partial attendance to be counted.