

**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****Senate Committee On Education****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued**Action Date:** 04/17/15**Action:** Without Recommendation As To Passage And Be Referred To Rules.**Meeting Dates:** 03/05, 04/17**Vote:**

Yeas: 4 - Beyer, Knopp, Kruse, Roblan

Exc: 3 - Baertschiger Jr, Gelser, Hass

**Prepared By:** Gretchen Engbring, Committee Administrator**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires school districts implement specified early reading program to claim full funding weight for full-day kindergarten program. Establishes Kindergarten Through Grade Three Reading Initiative Program in Oregon Department of Education (ODE). Requires ODE award grants to community-based organizations and tribes to implement early reading programs. Establishes program criteria. Establishes Kindergarten through Grade Three Reading Initiative Account in Treasury, distinct from General Fund. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2015.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Cultural disparities in reading levels
- Impact of dyslexia on reading levels
- Differences in reading levels when students start school
- Need for adequate funding to support reading programs
- Services to low-income students
- Need for equity in access to early reading funds and grants
- Summer learning loss

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Senate Bill 44 (2009) established the Full-Day Kindergarten Implementation Committee to aid and advise the Legislative Assembly, school districts, and public charter schools in developing and providing full-day kindergarten programs. Aligning with the Committee's recommendations, Senate Bill 248 (2011) required school districts to offer half-day kindergarten, authorized school districts to offer full-day kindergarten, and authorized public charter schools to offer either half-day or full-day kindergarten, all beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. The bill further specified that aggregate days membership of kindergarten students be calculated on the basis of either a half-time or full-time program, whichever the school offered, beginning with State School Fund distributions made for the 2015-2016 year.

House Bill 3232 (2013) established the Oregon Early Reading Program, which includes funds to be directed by the Early Learning Council for the purpose of strengthening early literacy among children ages 0-6 and with the intention of improving children's kindergarten readiness and third grade reading proficiency. House Bill 2013 (2013) created the Early Learning Kindergarten Readiness Partnership and Innovation Fund, also directed by the

Early Learning Council, in order to provide funding for communities to pilot approaches for linking early learning and kindergarten.

Senate Bill 214 requires that school districts implement early reading programs in order to claim funding weight for full-day kindergarten. The bill additionally establishes the Kindergarten Through Grade Three Reading Initiative Program in ODE and requires ODE award grants to community-based organizations and tribes to implement early reading programs. The bill establishes the Kindergarten through Grade Three Reading Initiative Account, from which funds are continuously appropriated to ODE for the purpose of awarding grants.