

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 05/04/15

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

**Meeting Dates:** 04/29, 05/04

**Vote:**

Yeas: 4 - Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Shields, Steiner Hayward

Exc: 1 - Knopp

**Prepared By:** Zena Rockowitz, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Directs school districts to allow students to wear sun-protective clothing and nonprescription sunscreen, including sunscreen containing para-aminobenzoic acid. Specifies that nonprescription sunscreen is not a medication. Allows school district to prohibit certain clothing or hats based on inappropriateness. Declares an emergency, effective July 1, 2015.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Sun exposure cause of skin cancer and high mortality
- Misperceptions about Oregon's rate of skin cancer, including melanoma
- Ambiguity and variability of sunscreen policies in schools
- Need for doctor's prescription in some schools to wear sunscreen
- Most exposure to sun occurs during youth

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Specifies that nonprescription sunscreen may contain para-aminobenzoic acid. Permits school district to prohibit certain hats or clothing based on inappropriateness.

**BACKGROUND:**

Childhood over-exposure to ultra-violet (UV) radiation is a leading cause of skin cancer. More than 40 percent of an individual's lifetime UV exposure occurs within the first 20 years of life. Young people spend a substantial proportion of their lives in schools, and some of that time is spent outside during the sunny hours of the day. Skin cancer is one of the deadliest forms of cancer in the U.S., and is also the most preventable. Practicing sun-safe behavior is an effective way to prevent cancer. Oregon has the 5th highest incidence rate of melanoma – and the 4th highest death rate from melanoma – in the country. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends three methods for sunburn prevention: sun avoidance, protective clothing and sunscreen use.