

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Education

MEASURE: SB 321 A
CARRIER: Rep. McLain

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued
Revenue: Revenue impact issued

Action Date: 05/06/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 04/27, 05/06

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Doherty, Frederick, McLain, Piluso, Reardon

Nays: 4 - Barreto, Hack, Sprenger, Wilson

Prepared By: Richard Donovan, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Decreases compulsory school age from seven to six years of age. Takes effect July 1, 2016.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Effects of premature or delayed entry on students
- No impact for home-schooled students
- Disproportionate effects of delayed entry on minority groups
- External conditions impacting student wellbeing and education (e.g., home life)
- Age of entry to school as issue of parental choice
- International research, trends and standards on compulsory education
- Compromise age (six) between current compulsory education age (seven) and recommended age (five) of the bill as introduced

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, ORS 339.010 requires children between the ages of seven and eighteen who have not completed the twelfth grade to regularly attend a public school full-time during the school term. Exemptions from compulsory attendance are provided in ORS 339.030 and include children who are taught in private or parochial schools, have demonstrated equivalent knowledge to that acquired in grades one through twelve, have received a high school diploma, are being taught by a private teacher or educated at home by a parent or guardian, or are otherwise excluded from attendance as provided by law.

Except as provided in ORS 339.030, Senate Bill 321-A decreases the compulsory school attendance age by requiring that all children between the ages of six and eighteen who have not completed the twelfth grade regularly attend a public school full-time during the school term.