

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

MEASURE: SB 135 A
CARRIER: Rep. Sprenger

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 05/13/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 05/08, 05/13

Vote:

Yeas: 8 - Barreto, Doherty, Frederick, McLain, Piluso, Reardon, Sprenger, Wilson

Exc: 1 - Hack

Prepared By: Richard Donovan, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Department of Education to pay for costs of education of students in eligible day treatment programs and eligible residential treatment programs by making grants in aid to school districts where programs are located. Specifies exclusions to costs of education. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2015.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Task Force on School Funding history
- Time and challenges associated with negotiating contracts
- Grants-in-aid as best practice

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 343.961 requires the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to provide payment for the costs of educating students with mental health, physical and behavioral challenges who are placed in eligible day and residential treatment programs. Payment is made under contract with the school district or education service district (ESD) in which the eligible day or residential program is located. Currently, ODE provides funding to 47 programs, with approximately 903 children served during the 2013-2014 school year. ODE also contracted with 26 school districts and ESDs to provide services for these children that year.

The 2014 Report to the Legislature by the Task Force on School Funding recommended that statute be changed so that long term care and treatment program funding is provided to school districts in the form of a grant-in-aid, rather than through contracts with the districts. Senate Bill 135-A amends the form of payment in ORS 343.961, requiring ODE to provide payment for the costs of education of students in treatment programs directly to the school district in which the program is located in the form of grants-in-aid.