

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

MEASURE: SB 667 A
CARRIER: Rep. Huffman

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued
Revenue: Revenue impact issued

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:

Extends sunset related to grants distributed to small school districts with one or more small high schools. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of Small School District Supplement Fund and grants distributed to small school districts
- Higher per-student costs for small and rural schools
- Unique challenges of small and rural schools

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

A 2002 report by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) entitled “The Costs of Operating Small Schools in Oregon” identified that small schools tend to spend more per student in most categories than larger schools.

Section 3, chapter 735, Oregon Laws 2013 provides for the Small School District Supplement Fund (Fund). The moneys in the Fund are appropriated continuously to ODE for the purposes of a small school district grant program. Section 2, chapter 735, Oregon Laws 2013 provides that in addition to the money distributed through the State School Fund (SSF), ODE shall award grants to small school districts with one or more small high schools from moneys appropriated to the department from the Fund. Section 20, chapter 735, Oregon Laws 2013 sunsets these provisions as of June 30, 2015.

Senate Bill 667-A extends the sunset related to grants distributed to small school districts with one or more small high schools, and requires ODE to continue to transfer \$2.5 million from SSF to the Fund each fiscal year until July 1, 2020.