

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

Action Date: 05/26/15

Action: Do Pass The A-Eng Bill And Refer To Finance And Revenue By Prior Reference.

Meeting Dates: 05/14, 05/26

Vote:

Yeas: 6 - Baertschiger Jr, Beyer, Hass, Knopp, Kruse, Roblan

Exc: 1 - Gelser

Prepared By: Gretchen Engbring, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Increases amount transferred from State School Fund (SSF) to High Cost Disabilities Account each fiscal year from \$18 million to \$35 million. First applies to 2015-16 school year SSF distributions. Takes effect on July 1, 2015.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- High costs of accommodating some students with unique medical or behavioral challenges
- High Cost Disabilities Account as providing reimbursement to school districts with high cost students
- Claims made during 2013-2014 totaled approximately 44 million – substantially more than the High Cost Disabilities Account currently holds
- Measure would nearly double amount in account and increase reimbursement amounts to districts
- Potential for increased funding to reduce litigation between parents with high cost children and school districts

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2003, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 550, which created the High Cost Disability Grant. Initially, this measure transferred \$12 million per year from the SSF to the High Costs Disabilities Account to pay for the approved special education costs that exceeded a threshold of \$25,000 per student per year. House Bill 2450C (2005) raised this threshold to \$30,000 per student, and a revision to ORS 327.008(8) in 2007 additionally increased the amount transferred to the account from \$12 to \$18 million per year. If the grand total of the grants initially exceed \$18 million, the grants to all school districts are proportionately reduced.

House Bill 2927-A increases the amount transferred from the SSF to the High Cost Disabilities Account, beginning with the 2015-16 SSF distributions.