

## STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER: Sen. Gelsner

## Senate Committee On Education

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 06/04/15**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments To The A-Eng Bill. (Printed B-Eng.)**Meeting Dates:** 05/21, 06/04**Vote:**

Yeas: 5 - Baertschiger Jr, Beyer, Gelsner, Knopp, Roblan

Exc: 2 - Hass, Kruse

**Prepared By:** Gretchen Engbring, Committee Administrator**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires students seven years of age or younger beginning educational program with education provider for first time submit certification that student has received dental screening within previous 12 months. Requires certification be provided within 120 days of student beginning educational program. Specifies who may conduct screening. Allows certification to be provided by person who conducts dental screening at location not associated with education provider or by person who conducts regular dental screenings of student. Specifies allowable exceptions to submitting certification. Requires education provider file known screening results for student and provide to parent or guardian standardized information related to dental care developed by dental director appointed by Oregon Health Authority. Directs State Board of Education, in consultation with Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Oregon Board of Dentistry, to adopt by rule standards for implementation. Establishes specified reporting requirements for school districts and Oregon Department of Education (ODE). Defines “dental screening” and other terms. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Importance of oral hygiene and care for both dental and overall health
- Need to shift to screening and preventative care, rather than treatment
- Concern regarding additional time and resources needed for school nurses to potentially conduct screenings
- Availability of free and low-cost dental services through non-profits in Oregon
- Measure as modeled after other required screenings in Oregon (e.g. vision)
- Data resulting from measure will help to assess problems and priorities
- Amendments allow, but do not mandate, school nurses and other qualified personnel to conduct screenings

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

Clarifies requirements for who may conduct dental screening. Requires dental director to establish guidelines for training of persons conducting screening. Clarifies that certification may be provided by person who conducts dental screening at location not associated with education provider or who conducts regular dental screenings of student. Requires dental director appointed by OHA to develop standardized information for distribution by education providers. Clarifies reporting timelines and requirements. Requires ODE to submit summary of reports to dental director as well as interim legislative committees on education.

**BACKGROUND:**

Dental disease is reported as a pressing public health problem in Oregon. A recent study notes, “the majority of Oregonians — poor or rich, female or male, old or young, whatever their race or ethnicity — suffer from oral disease.” The causes of this epidemic include inadequate education and prevention, lack of supplies, and a shortage

of providers serving low-income people. Left untreated, dental disease can be devastating to a person's health, educational success, productivity, and self-image. It has also been linked to increased incidence of serious illnesses, including diabetes and heart disease.

House Bill 2972-B mandates that each education provider require a student who is seven years of age or younger and who is beginning an educational program with the education provider for the first time to submit certification that the student received a dental screening within the previous 12 months.