

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 06/29/15

Action: Do Pass The A-Eng Bill.

Meeting Dates: 06/29

Vote:

Senate

Yeas: 10 - Burdick, Devlin, Girod, Hansell, Johnson, Monroe, Roblan, Shields, Steiner Hayward, Winters

Nays: 2 - Thomsen, Whitsett

House

Yeas: 11 - Buckley, Gomberg, Huffman, Komp, McLane, Nathanson, Rayfield, Read, Smith, Whisnant, Williamson

Nays: 1 - Whitsett

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Task Force on Class Sizes to determine appropriate class sizes of students, identify methods to reduce class sizes, and determine cost for methods to reduce class sizes. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Class sizes may be reduced by decreasing the number of children or increasing the number of teachers

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Class size has been a significant policy concern for legislators, agencies, and members of the public for quite some time. In 2013, the National Education Association calculated that Oregon had the third-highest student-teacher ratio in the nation. In the 2014 Teaching, Empowering, Leading, and Learning (TELL) Oregon Survey, educators express serious concerns over class size. Of the 17 states which conducted the TELL survey, Oregon respondents reported the most concern over class size.