

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date:

Action:

Meeting Dates: 02/15

Prepared By: Richard Donovan, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Delays requirement that school districts must implement child sexual abuse prevention instructional program for students in kindergarten through grade 12 until July 1, 2017. Directs Department of Education to conduct study on implementation of ORS 336.059 and to report to interim committees of Legislative Assembly related to education no later than February 1, 2017. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of requirements, specifically Senate Bill 856 (2015)
- Measure as technical fix to give school districts additional year to implement curriculum
- Testimony in Senate Bill 856 (2015) hearings indicating that the substantive provisions of that measure were already implemented in at the district level, so immediate passage of measure would not be a hardship to schools
- History of Department of Education outreach and notifications to districts, including briefing at Confederation of Oregon School Administrators conference

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

ORS336.059 was created by Senate Bill 856 (2015), and is known as “Erin’s Law.” It requires each school district board to adopt child sexual abuse prevention instructional programs for students in kindergarten through grade 12. In addition to student instruction, the requirements include a professional training component for administrators, teachers, and other school personnel, as well as a parental involvement component to inform parents about child sexual abuse topics. The bill was part of a national movement coordinated by sexual abuse survivor ErinMerryn. Erin’s Law first passed in Illinois and, as of 2015, 22 states had passed some version of it.

House Bill 4099 delays the implementation date of ORS 336.059 until July 1, 2017, and also requires the Oregon Department of Education to report on the implementation of ORS 336.059 no later than February 1, 2017.