

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

78th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2016 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

Measure: HB 4024 - A

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

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Measure Description:

Directs State Board of Education to adopt by rule complaint process to report district policy in violation of state law prohibiting harassment, intimidation, bullying and cyberbullying.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Education, School Districts

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

At this time, the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) believes that the ramifications of this measure cannot be fully estimated for the 2017-19 biennium. The bill requires the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to adopt rules related to the investigation of bullying complaints if alleged school district policy does not comply with, or was applied in violation of, state law. Before ODE takes any action on a filed complaint the affected school must be permitted an opportunity to follow district procedures relating to reported acts of harassment, intimidation, bullying or cyberbullying. ODE is required to record each complaint of state law violation and maintain a record of the complaint for no less than seven years. ODE must also develop and maintain a system for school districts to track the total number of complaints and number of disciplinary actions taken as well as demographic data about the person against whom each act was committed.

Creating a new information technology system to collect data is anticipated to require work from one limited duration Information Specialist 7 (0.29 FTE) at a cost of \$65,362 GF in the 2015-17 biennium. The workload associated with the development of rules, review of complaints, investigations, issuance of findings and monitoring of corrective action is anticipated to require one part-time Education Program Specialist 2 (0.63 FTE) for an estimated cost of \$140,980 General Fund (GF) in the 2015-17 biennium. Ongoing work for this position into the 2017-19 biennium and beyond is not entirely quantifiable and will be driven by an unknown number of complaints and the resulting investigations. The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that ODE include a request for this position in the 2017-19 budget, when the workload associated with this position can be more appropriately estimated.

Fiscal impacts to school districts are estimated to be minimal and absorbable with existing budgetary parameters.