HB 2657 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

Prepared By: Alethia Miller, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes out-of-school youth task force. Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to appoint task force members, including representatives from the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), school districts and education stakeholders. Charges task force with evaluating state policies and procedures that have unintended consequences of providing disincentives for school districts participating in reengagement efforts for out-of-school youth. Requires the task force submit a report to the Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2018. Directs ODE to staff the task force. Repeals the task force on December 31, 2018. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 Removes the out-of-school youth task force and replaces with the Youth Development Council to develop a statewide plan to provide out-of-school youth with opportunities to reengage. Requires the plan to provide out-of-school youth with opportunities to become reengaged and to succeed in education or the workforce. Provides multiple pathways for out-of-school youth. Allows variations in reengagement effort to support each region. Establishes accountability framework that helps determine success of reengagement efforts. Appoints to the task force representatives from the Department of Education, Higher Education Coordinating Commission, Employment Department, Department of Human Services, Oregon Health Authority, Youth Development Division, education stakeholders, workforce stakeholders, community organizations, and others representing the Youth Development Council. Requires task force to consult with experts throughout the state to compile information for providing out-of-school youth opportunities, to evaluate state policies and procedures for out-of-school youth to reengage, and analyze reengagement systems throughout the country to identify successful systems. Establishes chairperson and elects members. Requires report to the Oregon Legislative Assembly on September 15, 2018. Becomes effective on the 91st day after the 2017 regular session of the Seventy-ninth legislative assembly.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 417.847 (2015) established the Youth Development Council for the purpose of overseeing a unified system providing services to school-aged children through 24 years of age. The goal is to reduce high risk behaviors and hold them accountable. In 2014, data from the American Community Survey indicates that 42,506 youth from ages 18 to 24 years old do not have a recognized high school diploma or equivalent document. According to the Seattle Times, large cities like Boston and Chicago have reengagement programs that are proven to effectively reengage students who have dropped out of school.

HB 2657 creates a task force centered around youth reengagement with representative from the Oregon Department of Education, school districts and education stakeholders.