79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2017 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

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Measure Description:

Directs Department of Education to coordinate with Oregon FFA Association to increase student achievement and improve college attendance and career placement for students enrolled in agricultural education courses.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Education

Analysis:

The bill, as amended, directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to coordinate with the Oregon FFA Association in activities relating to an agriculture, science and technology program (FFA program). Section 2 appropriates \$1.8 million General Fund for the 2017-19 biennium to ODE for activities specified in Section 1 of the bill. It is believed that the intent of Section 1 (1) is to require grant funds to pay for the membership dues for students (grades 9-12) who enroll in at least one course per school year of an approved FFA program. However, it could be interpreted as mandating that every student (grades 9-12) who attend a school with an approved FFA program, be enrolled as a member and be required to take a minimum of one FFA program course per school year. Additionally, ODE is to provide financial support for leadership development and training, coordinate a minimum of twenty-four state-level competitions for the program, and various other actives specified by the bill. A cost estimate of these requirements is still being prepared to determine if the GF appropriation is sufficient to fund these specified activities.

Section 3 establishes a grant program to fund "extended duty contracts" in school districts to allow personnel to manage agricultural and science educational programs during the summer months. ODE must collect data from each school district that receives one of these grants. Costs associated with ODE data collection of the extended duty contract grants are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing parameters of the ODE budget. The amount of these grant funds is unspecified however moneys are directed to be sourced from Ballot Measure 98 (2016) revenues. At this time, the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) believes that the ramifications of this measure are not fully understood since the funding for Ballot Measure 98 is yet undetermined. Furthermore, ODE administration costs for the grants will vary depending on the quantity and amount of grant funding distributed; the bill does not designate a specific number of grants nor a specific grant amount. A more complete fiscal analysis on the bill will be prepared as the measure is considered in the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.