

## **SB 278 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Senate Committee On Education**

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**Sub-Referral To:** Joint Committee On Ways and Means

**Meeting Dates:** 3/23

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to study the affect of school social workers on attendance rates, harassment, bullying, morale, and the school system as a whole. Requires ODE to submit a report to an interim committee of the legislature related to education by October 15, 2018 and a second report by October 15, 2019. Requires ODE to create a pilot program to increase the number of students served by school social workers, consisting of distributing funds for the hiring of new school social workers, increasing the working hours of existing school social workers, or enabling existing school personnel to earn licenses as school social workers. Requires school districts to submit applications to become part of the pilot program. Requires participant districts to submit information to ODE annually about the effects of the program. Allows the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt rules necessary for administering the pilot program. Sunsets the pilot program June 30, 2021. Adds school social workers to portions of state law pertaining to behavioral health. Appropriates \$4 million from the General Fund to ODE for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017 for the study. Appropriates \$20 million from the General Fund to ODE for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017 for the pilot program. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2017.

**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:**

-2 Removes language relating to the morale of students and staff. Removes provisions adding school social workers to portions of state law pertaining to behavioral health. Clarifies that annual report required of participants in the pilot program will not be submitted until October 15, 2018. Removes appropriations from the General Fund. Appropriates \$24 million from the High School Graduation and College and Career Readiness Fund created by Measure 98 for the study and pilot program.

##### **BACKGROUND:**

According to the School Social Work Association of America, school social workers are trained mental health professionals who work in schools to assist with mental health concerns, behavioral concerns, positive behavioral support, academic and classroom support, and provide individual and group counseling or therapy.

In Oregon, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) licenses school social workers. Under rules adopted by the TSPC, school social workers are authorized to assess home, school, personal, and community factors that may affect a student's learning; identify and provide intervention strategies for children and their families, including counseling, case management and crisis intervention; consult with teachers, administrators and other school staff regarding social and emotional needs of students; and coordinate family, school and community resources on behalf of students. School social workers must have at least a master's degree, completion of a graduate program in social work, a passing score on a commission-approved test, and pass a background check.

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There are currently 37 licensed school social workers in the state. There are 12 employed specifically to work with students with disabilities.