

SB 263 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Human Services

Prepared By: Matt Doumit, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/22, 4/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes requirements for abbreviated school day programs. Limits school district's ability to require student participation in abbreviated school day program to safety or medical reasons. Defines terms.

FISCAL: May Have Fiscal Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued

REVENUE: May Have Revenue Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Level of increase in reduced school hours for special needs and behavioral needs children
- Cases of reduced school hours and current practices regarding child behavioral issues
- Impact of reduced school hours on children and families
- Purpose of data collection provisions in measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Some children with special circumstances or needs may require fewer school day hours to help address their conditions. Disability advocacy groups have noted that reducing school days for certain special needs children has been in increasing practice in Oregon, which can have negative impacts for some affected children and families. An abbreviated school day program is an education program where a child receives a shorter school day than their grade-level peers for an extended period of time. Schools must carefully assess what types of programs can help children address their needs.

Senate Bill 263 establishes the circumstances by which a school district is permitted to require a student to participate in an abbreviated school day program. The measure limits schools to only putting children in abbreviated school day programs when the student cannot safely participate in a full school day or they are medically prevented from participating in a full school day, as described by the measure. Senate Bill 263 also establishes procedures and requirements for assessing a child's appropriateness for an abbreviated school day program. This includes individualized assessments based on behavioral, special educational, or medical needs. The measure provides for regular reviews of a child's condition by specified assessment teams and it establishes reporting requirements to the state Department of Education. The measure's provisions are also applied to public charter schools.