

HB 2956 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Family Supports

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Meeting Dates: 3/9, 4/6, 4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Early Learning Council (ELC) to conduct evaluation and submit report of the Early Learning Hubs (Hubs) by March 15 of each odd-numbered year. Requires ELC to conduct additional evaluation and report by March, 2018. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, but no statement issued

REVENUE: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Early Learning Hubs (Hubs) are new and were created in 2013
- Early Learning Council (ELC) budget is around \$400 million dollars
- Need for ELC to provide additional evaluations and reports on Hubs

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 amendment: Modifies specifications of report that is due March 2018. Eliminates additional evaluation that is due March 2018. Eliminates annual report that is due on or before September.

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, but no statement issued

REVENUE: No revenue impact

BACKGROUND:

The Early Learning Council (ELC) is the governing body that oversees Oregon's early learning system to ensure that children are raised in stable families and enter to school ready to learn. The ELC was created by Senate Bill 909 in 2011 and was further directed through House Bill 4165 in 2012.

In 2013, House Bill 2013 authorized ELC to create sixteen regional, community-based Early Learning Hub (Hubs). Hubs have three goals: create an early learning system, which is aligned, coordinated, and family centered; ensure children are ready for school; and ensure young children live in families that are healthy, stable and attached. Hubs take different forms based on regional needs, resources and values. The Hubs are primarily responsible for developing a vision and strategic agenda, pursuing collaborative initiatives and alignment with partners, engaging parents, coordinating services, data sharing and evaluating progress. The *2015 Early Learning Hub Legislative Report* explains that Hub contracts were executed between 2014 and 2015. During this time, the Hubs were in the start-up phase.

ELC assesses the Hubs with respect to creating an aligned, coordinated and family-centered system of early learning services; increasing coordination among entities; and increasing focus on outcomes and improving outcomes. The evaluation must assess governance structure, funding mechanisms, and compilation of data. Presently, the ELC reports annually on or before September 15 on the implementation and status of Hubs. In addition, ELC must conduct an evaluation of the Hubs and submit a report by February 1, 2019. House Bill 2956 -1 would eliminate the annual report on the Hubs due in September; modify the date that the Hub evaluation and report are due and require them in odd-numbered years; and require an additional progress report on Hubs in March 2018.