

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2992 - 1

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

***Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official***

Prepared by: Krista Dauenhauer
Reviewed by: Doug Wilson
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Measure Description:

Requires school district board and public charter school governing body to adopt and implement policy that requires volunteers to undergo criminal records check.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Education, School Districts

Analysis:

The bill directs each school district and public charter school to require volunteers to undergo a criminal records check, using the Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS), if the volunteer will have direct-unsupervised contact with school children. Private schools are permitted to adopt and implement a policy which is similar to this requirement for public schools.

Current law states that school districts, charter schools and private schools may request that the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) conduct a criminal records check through the Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS) for a fee not to exceed \$5. ORS 326.603(3) grants school districts or private schools the authority to recover background check costs from a person who is at a kindergarten through grade 12 school site during regular school days; for the purposes of this fiscal impact it is assumed that school districts will utilize this authority and opt to require volunteers to reimburse the district for the cost of the \$5 fee. This \$5 fee is the current cost to run a criminal records check using LEDS, it does not reimburse any ODE staff time which is used to conduct the records check and report results to the school districts.

The fiscal impact of this measure is not fully determinable at this time because the number of volunteers that would require a criminal records check is not readily available. ODE currently conducts 16,000 criminal records checks a biennium. Additional criminal records checks resulting from this legislation could range from 16,000 to 34,000 criminal records checks a biennium. This increased workload is anticipated to require a half-time to full-time Office Specialist 2 position (0.50 to 1.00 FTE) at an estimated cost of \$82,643 to \$164,200 per biennium.