

HB 3069 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Family Supports

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Meeting Dates: 4/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Department of Human Services to conduct study regarding early childhood.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 amendment: Replaces measure. Creates the Early Childhood Equity Innovation Fund in State Treasury. Authorizes appropriation to Department of Education (ODE) for the Early Learning Division (ELD) to make grants to culturally specific early learning, early childhood and parent support programs. Requires programs to provide outreach and support to families of varying ethnicity that provide outreach, support and resources. Requires ELD to conduct biennial evaluation of programs that receive grants. Requires report of each odd-numbered year on status of grants. Requires first report by September 15, 2019. Directs the Early Learning Council to adopt rules. Appropriates \$5 million dollars. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

BACKGROUND:

The Early Learning Council adopted the Oregon Equity Lens in 2013 to support an equitable education system that address the racial and social disparities in early learning for children of color and economically disadvantaged populations. A culturally responsive early learning system embeds equity-informed practice into all aspects of an organization to support healthy, stable and attached families. Culturally responsive teaching and practice honors the cultural background, life experiences and communication styles of children. Children benefit from teachers who understand their culture and speak their language.

The Early Learning Division reports that for 2015, in Oregon, there are 230,000 children under age five, of which about 45 percent are children of color. Roughly 28 percent of all children under age five are Hispanic. In five Oregon counties – Marion, Jefferson, Hood River, Morrow and Malheur, over half of the population under five years old are children of color.

Families of color are a large and growing part of Oregon's early learning community, but culturally and linguistically specific programs do not have a designated public funding source. House Bill 3069 proposes that the ELD fund culturally-specific early learning and parent support programs with demonstrated outcomes, by creating an Equity and Innovation Fund at \$5 million per biennium. The legislation requires the Oregon Department of Education, in consultation with the ELD to adopt rules for grant eligibility.