

HB 2648 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 5/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds school social worker to list of professions included in school-based system for which school district or education service district may receive moneys for decreasing rates of absenteeism. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of social workers in Oregon schools
- Passage of legislation in 2015 that did not include social workers in list of professions

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

Oregon school districts receive money for schools that provides trauma support services in the behavioral health services division for the purpose of decreasing absenteeism. The professions that qualify for school districts to receive money are school nurses, school counselors, school psychologists or clinical psychologists. Current law does not include social workers in the list of qualifying professions. Several Oregon school districts already employ social workers, including the Beaverton School District, Portland Public Schools and Reynolds School District.

House Bill 2648 amends the law to include social workers in the list of qualifying professions for for which school districts may receive money for decreasing absenteeism.