

HB 2956 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Early Learning Council (ELC) to conduct an evaluation of the Early Learning Hubs (Hubs) each biennium. Requires the ELC to submit a report on the findings of the evaluation by March 15 of each odd-numbered year. Requires the ELC to report on the progress of the evaluation by March 15, 2018. Eliminates annual reporting requirement on the status of the Hubs that is due by September. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Early Learning Hubs (Hubs) created in 2013 by the Legislative Assembly
- The Early Learning Council (ELC) budget is approximately \$400 million dollars
- Need for ELC to provide additional evaluations and reports to assess the Hubs

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

The Early Learning Council (ELC) is the governing body that oversees the early learning system in Oregon. The ELC ensures that children are raised in stable families and enter 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 Hubs (Hubs). The Hubs have three goals: create an early learning system that 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. The Hubs take different forms based on regional needs, resources and values. The Hubs' primary responsibility is to develop a vision and strategic agenda, to pursue collaborative initiatives and align with partners, to engage parents, to coordinate services and data sharing, and to evaluate progress. The *2015 Early Learning Hub Legislative Report* explains that contracts for the Hubs were executed between 2014 and 2015.

Presently, ELC reports annually, by September 15, on the implementation and status of Hubs. In addition, ELC must conduct an evaluation of the Hubs and submit a report to the interim legislative committees on education and early learning by February 1, 2019.