

HB 3181 A -A5 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 5/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates an exemption for students who are seven years of age or younger from the the requirement to provide a certificate stating that the student received a dental screening within the previous 12 months, provided the parent or guardian submits a statement. Specifies components of explanation statement for the reason that the dental screening is a burden for the student or parent or guardian. Specifies how the Oregon Health Authority summary shall be submitted and the contents of the summary.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Opt out option for schools
- Reporting requirements for school districts
- Educational campaign for parents or legal guardian on dental screenings
- Importance of comprehensive data for lawmakers and future public policy discussion
- Impact of untreated tooth decay
- Proposed amendment

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A5 Requires schools to issue specific instructions to students, parents, or guardians.

BACKGROUND:

Dental disease is reported as one of the biggest public health problems in Oregon. A recent study notes, “the majority of Oregonians — poor or rich, female or male, old or young, whatever their race or ethnicity — suffer from oral disease.” The causes of this epidemic include inadequate education and prevention, lack of supplies and a shortage of providers serving low-income people. Left untreated, dental disease can be devastating to a person’s health, educational success, productivity and self-image. It has also been linked to increased incidence of serious illnesses, including diabetes and heart disease.

In 2015, the Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 2972, which directed each education provider to require a student who is seven years of age or younger and who is beginning an educational program with an education provider, for the first time, to submit certification that the student received a dental screening within the previous 12 months and allowed 120 days for the certification to be provided to the educational program. Additionally, the bill specified exemptions to the certification and required the educational provider to provide the screening results to the parent or guardian.