

HB 3412 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Prepared By: Kim To, Fiscal Administrative Supervisor

Meeting Dates: 6/22, 6/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Task Force on Assessments of Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing to examine and recommend a framework for assessing children who deaf and hard of hearing to determine competency to ensure success in kindergarten curriculum. Establishes Task Force membership, including American Sign Language teachers and parent of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing. Requires Task Force review tools and assessment to track literacy and language development. Defines tools and assessments as standardized assessments, able to track expressive and receptive language abilities, use Individualized Education Plans and identify language development milestones. Requires report be submitted to the Legislative Assembly no later than January 1, 2018. Requires Task Force be staffed by Oregon Department of Education. Task Force sunsets on June 30, 2019.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Amendment
- Fiscal impact

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Adds a task force member of a school psychologist with experience working with deaf/hard-of-hearing students. Specifies that when analyzing and recommending the framework for assessment, the task force must be impartial with regard to the language taught to deaf/hard-of-hearing children. Requires the chairperson to be a nonvoting member of the task force and may be elected from among any of the voting or nonvoting members of the task force.

BACKGROUND:

Within the Department of Human Services (DHS), there is an Oregon Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Advisory Committee appointed by the Director of DHS. The Committee meets up to six times per year to represent Oregonians in populations representing people who are deaf, deaf and blind, and hard of hearing. There is an Oregon School for the Deaf that serves children eligible for special education due to their hearing impairment. Children who attend the school are not required to be absolutely deaf, but may have any level of hearing impairments.

HB 3412 establishes the Task Force on Assessments of Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing to analyze assessment strategies for children who are deaf or hard of hearing to determine competency to ensure success in kindergarten curriculum while requiring the Task Force review tools and assessment strategies.