79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2017 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

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Measure Description:

Requires school districts, education service districts and public charter schools to adopt Healthy and Safe Schools Plan to address environmental conditions in facilities owned or leased by districts or schools where students or staff are present on regular basis.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Education, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Oregon Health Authority (OHA), School Districts

Summary of Expenditure Impact to Oregon Department of Education:

	2017-19 Biennium	2019-21 Biennium
General Fund	\$111,577	\$217,903
Total Funds	\$111,577	\$217,903
Positions	1	1
FTE	0.50	1.00

Summary of State School Fund:

	2017-19 Biennium	2019-21 Biennium
Facility Grants	0	-2,000,000
Healthy School Facilities Fund	0	2,000,000
Total Funds	\$0	\$0

Analysis:

The bill establishes the Healthy School Facilities Fund, and carves-out, beginning on or after July 1, 2019, \$2 million of State School Funds (SSF) for facility grants to test and reduce exposure to elevated levels of lead in water, lead-based paint, and installing carbon monoxide detectors. This \$2 million carve-out is from the existing facilities grant allocation and will reduce the available funds for facilities grants from \$9 million to \$7 million per biennium. The bill permits the State Board of Education to issue grants up to \$25,000 each for the assessment of these potential environmental hazards. The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) is directed to provide financial assistance to school districts, education service districts and public charter schools in adoption, administration and enforcement of Healthy and Safe Schools Plans to address environmental conditions in facilities owned or leased by districts or schools where students or staff are present on a regular basis. The bill specifies the minimum content for the Healthy and Safe Schools Plan, and requires school districts, education service districts, and public charter schools to adopt the Plan. Schools are directed to provide ODE with copies of the Plan, and to annually review and revise the Plan. ODE must develop a model Healthy and Safe Schools Plan as guidance for districts and schools by January 1, 2019. The bill requires ODE to make opportunities for professional development available to school staff regarding plan requirements and reporting. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) is directed to develop recommendations regarding practices for reducing environmental conditions that may present health concerns, including developing information sheets concerning environmental conditions that may present health concerns. OHA must, in consultation with ODE, districts, public charter schools, and other stakeholders, adopt mandatory guidelines for testing and reducing exposure to elevated levels of lead in drinking water by January 1, 2019.

The ODE workload associated with ongoing processing and compliance reviews of Plans, creation of professional development opportunities and materials for district personnel, and the management of reimbursements from the Healthy and Safe Schools Account is anticipated to require a permanent Program Analyst 2 (0.50 FTE) position at an estimated cost of \$111,577 in the 2017-19 biennium and (1.00 FTE) an estimated cost of \$217,903 in the 2019-21 biennium. The fiscal impacts to DEQ and OHA are anticipated to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgetary parameters.