

SJR 6 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 2/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Recommends that school personnel, parents, and students be educated about the health impacts of heavy backpacks. Recommends school scoliosis examinations. Recommends that parent organizations assess the use of overloaded backpacks. Recommends specific items for schools to consider when conducting backpack education. Directs the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction to communicate information relating to heavy backpacks to every school district in the state.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

This joint resolution accompanies Senate Bill 216, which requires the Oregon Department of Education to provide backpack safety educational materials to school districts.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission collects data on product-related injuries. Its data is collected from a sample of 100 emergency departments throughout the United States. For 2015, the commission's sample data found 179 children aged 18 or under reporting backpack-related injuries. Of this sample, 16 injuries related to the heavy weight of the backpack.