

HB 2536 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to develop professional development courses related to guidance and counseling programs for students in kindergarten through grade 12. Directs ODE to make courses available to all school districts throughout the state. Directs ODE to provide technical assistance and other training to school districts and school counselors related to courses developed. Appropriates \$250,000 out of the General Fund beginning July 1, 2017 for the purposes of developing professional development courses, making the courses electronically available, and providing technical assistance to school districts.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Removes the allocation of \$250,000 from the General Fund.

BACKGROUND:

The American School Counselor Association (ASCA) recommends that for every 250 students in school, there is one counselor present. The data released by the ASCA indicates that during the 2013-2014 academic year, Oregon had one counselor for every 604 students present.

House Bill 2536 directs the Department of Education (ODE) to develop professional development courses related to guidance and counseling programs for students in kindergarten through grade 12. It further directs ODE to make these courses available through the State of Oregon and provide technical assistance to school districts and counselors for the courses in development.