

SB 216 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/7, 2/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Education to prepare information about the health impacts of heavy backpacks and possible measures to avoid backpack-related injuries. Directs the department to make this information available to school districts and to identify best practices for school districts to disseminate the information.

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

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- spinal health
- emergency room visits
- health issues
- scoliosis
- proliferation of backpacks since 1970

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

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.