

SB 574 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Raises the threshold under which school districts may receive additional State School Fund money for students eligible for special education from 11 percent to 13 percent. Increases the amount transferred each year to the High Cost Disabilities Account from \$35 million to \$36 million. Establishes that threshold and Account transfer increases commence with 2017-2018 distributions. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2017.

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:

Students eligible for special education services receive an additional full weight under Oregon's school funding formula. When the funding formula was passed, legislators capped the double weight at 11 percent of a district's total average daily membership. Senate Bill 574 raises that cap to 13 percent.

In 2003, the Legislature established the High Cost Disabilities Account to assist school districts in meeting the expenses incurred in educating those students with greater needs. Senate Bill 574 raises the amount of money transferred to the account annually.