

SB 187 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/14, 2/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to reimburse education providers for expenses related to vision screening, including contracting with private entities. Establishes the Vision Health Account in the State Treasury. Appropriates \$3 million of General Fund for the account. Declares an 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:

House Bill 3000 (2013) directed ODE to make recommendations regarding regular vision screenings in the public schools. The department, in its report dated December 2013, recommended that the state provide vision screening to every student in kindergarten, first, third, and fifth grade. Its estimate included providing screenings to 165,000 students in the affected grades in Oregon's 796 elementary schools at a cost of \$10.58 per student.

The Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation (OLSHF) screened 172,000 children at 550 schools during the 2015-16 school year. The organization coordinates its screenings with school nurses and relies on volunteers to conduct the screenings.