

SJR 6 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 02/14/17
Action: Be adopted.
Vote: 5-0-0-0
Yeas: 5 - Gelser, Hass, Kruse, Linthicum, Roblan
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
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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.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Postural distortion
- Effects of weight
- Osteoperosis
- Opioid deaths
- Axial loading systems

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No 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 U.S. 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 years old or under reporting backpack-related injuries. Of this sample, 16 injuries related to the heavy weight of the backpack.