

## **SB 216 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Senate Committee On Education**

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**Action Date:** 02/14/17

**Action:** Do pass and refer to Ways and Means by prior reference.

**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:**

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.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Spinal health
- Emergency room visits
- Health issues
- Scoliosis
- Proliferation of backpacks since 1970

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

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.