

**SB 187 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Education**

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**Action Date:** 02/21/17

**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:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**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 emergency, effective July 1, 2017.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Success of the program
- Statistics
- Benefits to students
- Benefits to school nurses
- Challenges faced by students with vision issues

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No 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 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 screenings.