

## HB 2649 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Education

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**Action Date:** 03/22/17

**Action:** Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

**Vote:** 9-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 9 - Doherty, Evans, Hernandez, McLain, Parrish, Sollman, Sprenger, Vial, Wilson

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the State Board of Education (Board) adopt by rule a process for students or other members of the public to submit to the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) a complaint alleging that a school district policy does not comply or was in violation. Requires the Board adopt rules relating to standards for ODE to determine whether school district complies with requirements, process for ODE to review and investigate complaints, requirements that the complainant notify the school where the reported act of harassment, intimidation or bullying occurred, and allow the district an opportunity to respond to complaint. Requires ODE to record and document each complaint. Requires ODE develop system to track the number of reports of harassment, intimidation and bullying, and the number of disciplinary actions. Requires ODE document information about the person whom each act of harassment was taken against, include their race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin and disability. Requirement to implement the database to track complaints becomes operative on July 1, 2018. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2017.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Cost toward school districts for time spent on compliance and concern for costs imposed on Oregon Department of Education (ODE)
- Enforcement mechanism for Division 22 related to ODE's corrective action plan on school districts
- Accounts of bullying in Oregon and effect on behavior and absenteeism
- Requirements on ODE and cost associated with measure

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

#### BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) currently does not have a system that tracks the acts of harassment at school districts that documents the race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin and disability of the person who was harassed. The State Board of Education does not have rules relating to complaints alleging that a school district policy was violated, nor do they track the type of complaints that occur. House Bill 2649 requires the ODE adopt rules to determine whether school districts are in compliance. It requires ODE to create a system to track the number of reported acts within each district.