

SB 263 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Gelser

Senate Committee On Human Services

Action Date: 04/17/17

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Gelser, Knopp, Monnes Anderson, Olsen

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes requirements for abbreviated school day programs after specified individualized education program team assessment process. Establishes notice and record keeping requirements to be completed by school district each term regarding placement in abbreviated school day program. Operative 2017-2018 school year. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2017.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Reduced school hours for special needs and behavioral needs children
- Individual cases and current practices regarding child behavioral issues
- Impact of reduced school hours on children and families
- Purpose of data collection provisions in measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND:

Some children with special circumstances or needs may require fewer school day hours to help address their conditions. Disability advocacy groups have noted that reducing school days for certain special needs children has been an increasing practice in Oregon, which can have negative impacts for some affected children and families. An abbreviated school day program is an education program where a child receives a shorter school day than their grade-level peers for an extended period of time. Schools must carefully assess what types of programs can help children address their needs.

Senate Bill 263-A establishes requirements for a school district to place a student in an abbreviated school day program. It permits such placements if the student's individualized education program (IEP) team makes a determination based on the student's needs, provides parents with a meaningful opportunity to participate in the decision, and the IEP team documents consideration of at least one full school day-length alternative. The measure also requires school districts to provide notice to parents regarding the district's legal requirements for abbreviated school day programs and obtain a signed acknowledgement from parents each term. Senate Bill 263-A also requires the district to include a statement in the student's IEP regarding the reasons for placement in an abbreviated school day program.