

HB 3412 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

Action Date: 04/17/17

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

Vote: 8-0-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Doherty, Evans, Hernandez, McLain, Parrish, Sollman, Vial, Wilson

Exc: 1 - Sprenger

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Task Force on Assessments of Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (Task Force) to analyze assessment strategy for children who deaf and hard of hearing to determine competency to ensure success in kindergarten curriculum. Establishes Task Force membership, including American Sign Language teachers and parent of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing. Requires Task Force review tools and assessment to track literacy and language development. Defines tools and assessments as standardized assessments, able to track expressive and receptive language abilities, use Individualized Education Plans and identify language development milestones. Requires report be submitted to the Legislative Assembly no later than January 1, 2018. Requires Task Force be staffed by Oregon Department of Education.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Challenge in educating children who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Approximately 1,050 deaf or hard of hearing children in the State of Oregon
- Need for spoken English and American Sign Language
- Concern with measure language identifying English as the primary language, as opposed to Spanish, French, Russian, etc.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Within the Department of Human Services (DHS), there is an Oregon Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Advisory Committee appointed by the Director of DHS. The Committee meets up to six times per year to represent Oregonians in populations representing people who are deaf, deaf and blind, and hard of hearing. There is an Oregon School for the Deaf that serves children eligible for special education due to their hearing impairment. Children who attend the school are not required to be absolutely deaf, but may have any level of hearing impairments.

House Bill 3412 establishes the Task Force on Assessments of Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing to analyze assessment strategies for children who are deaf or hard of hearing to determine competency to ensure success in kindergarten curriculum while requiring the Task Force review tools and assessment strategies.