

HB 4051 -1, -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/5, 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes task force on rural education ('Task Force') and appoints fourteen members to Task Force. Establishes membership to include one member from the majority and minority party of both the House and Senate; one representative from the Oregon Department of Education, community college, and public university; and seven teachers and administrators from school districts or education service districts. Requires the Task Force review data and research related to student outcomes in rural schools. Requires the Task Force assess the impact of current state policy and laws on rural schools. Requires Task Force make recommendations for state policy changes to support rural schools to address chronic absenteeism, graduation rates, student mobility, serving underrepresented students and advancing post-secondary education. Requires report be submitted no later than September 15, 2018 to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly. Repeals Task Force on December 31, 2018. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Interest in rural education and lack of data surrounding rural schools in Oregon
- Fiscal impact of task force

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Requires one member on the Task Force be a teacher specializing in special education and related services.

-3 Requires one member on the Task Force be a teacher specializing in special education and related services. Requires one member be a teacher serving students in English Language Learners.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

BACKGROUND:

The Chalkboard Project partnered with ECONorthwest to write a report on rural education, titled: "Rural Education in Oregon: Overcoming the Challenges of Income and Distance." The study recommended that a rural education agenda should: (1) mitigate the role household income plays in student achievement; (2) identify factors that drive higher rates of chronic absenteeism; (3) overcome the role distance plays in college going.

House Bill 4051 establishes a task force whose purpose is to write a report assessing the impact of current state policy and laws on rural schools and makes recommendations for state policy changes.