

HB 4130 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Transportation Policy

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/7, 2/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes a grant program under which the Department of Education awards grants to school districts for a percentage of certain student transportation costs for which the school district does not receive any amount in distributions from the State School Fund. Takes effect July 1, 2018.

FISCAL: fiscal lite statement issued

REVENUE: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of ensuring all students can participate in extra-curricular activities
- Ability to utilize transit, where available
- Measure is product of a work group with broad representation
- Possible additional funding from new employee payroll tax (House Bill 2017, 2017)

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Most Oregon school districts provide student transportation to and from public schools through bus services funded by the State School Fund. Districts receive funding based on the number of students; districts with especially high per-student transportation costs receive a slightly higher per-student rate. Buses funded through the State School Fund may transport students to and from school only; students participating in after school programs or activities are often unable to utilize school bus service.

House Bill 4130 creates a grant program to provide school districts with the funding necessary to provide student transportation services during off-school hours. Allowable uses would include school buses, school activity vehicles, and commercial buses and light-rail trains operated by public transit providers. The measure makes an allocation of \$250,000 from the General Fund as seed money for the grant program.