

HB 4066 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Family Supports

Action Date: 02/13/18

Action: Do pass with amendments
and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Boles, Bonham, Bynum, Hayden, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Malstrom, Piluso, Smith DB

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates the Early Childhood Equity Fund. Appropriates \$2.5 million for the fund. Allows the Early Learning Division to use the fund for grants to culturally specific early learning, early childhood, and parent support programs. Establishes criteria for programs to receive grants. Becomes effective July 1, 2018.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Diversity of state's population
- Current state funding for early childhood programs
- Role of early childhood education in students' future educational success
- Access to culturally specific programs

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Renames fund as Early Childhood Equity Fund. Alters grant criteria. Requires program evaluation to include measurement of outcomes that align with culturally specific approaches. Requires Early Learning Council, rather than Oregon Department of Education (ODE), in consultation with the Early Learning Division, to adopt rules. Eliminates role of ODE in reporting requirement.

BACKGROUND:

The Early Learning Council's (ELC) guiding principles include operating with cultural responsiveness in the best interest of children and their families and promoting equity in access and allocation of resources to and cultural responsiveness for populations furthest from opportunity. The ELC's 2015-2020 strategic plan includes tactics such as developing a contracting approach that advances equity goals; providing accountability to an equity plan; and using data to allocate resources, by taking race, poverty, and service access/outcome disparities into consideration.

HB 4066-A creates the Early Childhood Equity Fund to allow the Early Learning Division (ELD) to make grants to culturally specific early learning, early childhood, and parent support programs. Grant recipients must demonstrate a proven ability to provide outreach, support, and resources to children and families who are at risk because of a combination of two or more factors, including their race, ethnicity, English language proficiency, socioeconomic status, and geographic location. ELD must regularly evaluate and report on grants to the Legislative Assembly. The ELC, in consultation with ELD, must adopt rules that include grant eligibility requirements.