

HB 4130 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Transportation Policy

Action Date: 02/14/18

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

Vote: 8-0-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Bonham, Evans, McLain, Meek, Noble, Salinas, Vial, Wilson

Exc: 1 - Witt

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes a grant program under which the Department of Education awards grants to school districts 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.

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 created in 2017 (House Bill 2017)
- Funding for program provided by measure is for first year

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Most Oregon school districts provide student transportation to and from public schools through bus service 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.