

SB 13 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 1/30, 2/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Updates term for deaf or hard of hearing conditions within special education statutes.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of the usage of the term "hearing impaired"
- Why "hearing impaired" is an outdated term
- The impact of being labeled "impaired" on children
- Number of deaf citizens in Oregon
- The usage of term the "emotional disturbance"

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 The -1 amendment provides additional updates to special education terms. It changes the term for "autism" to "autism spectrum disorder" and "deaf-blindness" to "deafblindness" and separates the term "other health impairment" from "orthopedic impairment."

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) requested the bill to update the term "hearing impairment" with "deafness and being hard of hearing" in Oregon's special education statutes. Oregon's deaf and hard of hearing community informed ODE that the term "hearing impairment" does not adequately describe the wide range of hearing loss and cultural affiliations. ODE requested the -1 amendment to update additional outdated or unclear terms within the special education statutes.