

SB 180 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/6, 2/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to award grants to school districts for bullying prevention and youth empowerment programs. Requires school districts to partner with a community-based organization to qualify for the grant. Establishes program requirements. Directs ODE to award grants on a competitive basis and to prioritize programs that focus on geographic equity and middle school students. Appropriates \$6 million for grant funding. Directs ODE to provide a statewide conference on bullying prevention and youth empowerment. Establishes conference requirements.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Mental health needs in schools
- Bullying prevention programs
- Outcomes of participation in anti-bullying programs
- Suicide Prevention
- Role of expulsions in bullying prevention
- Role of early social and emotional instruction

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Legislative Assembly has found that a safe and civil environment is necessary for students to learn and achieve high academic standards and that harassment, intimidation, bullying and cyberbullying disrupt a student's ability to learn in a safe environment. Oregon law requires school districts to adopt policies prohibiting harassment, intimidation, bullying and cyberbullying and to provide prevention and response training. Oregon law also encourages school districts to develop anti-bullying task forces and programs that involve students, parents, school employees, law enforcement, and community representatives.