

SB 485 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 2/6, 2/13, 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to collaborate with public and private schools, public and private universities and colleges, and runaway or homeless youth service providers on a communication plan for responding to suspected suicides of persons 24 years or younger. Requires educational institutions that the individual attended at the time of death to inform OHA of activities implemented to provide support and prevent risk of contagion. Requires OHA to serve as a resource to educational institutions affected by the suspected suicide.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Mental health needs in schools
- Suicide Prevention

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2016, the Oregon Health Authority reports that 98 youths age 24 and younger died as a result of suicide. Under current law, Oregon Health Authority (OHA) may, but is not required to, collaborate with educational institutions on a communication plan for responding to suspected suicides and to serve as resource as needed by the educational institutions. In addition, educational institutions are not currently required to notify OHA of the activities implemented to provide support and reduce risk of contagion after a suspected suicide. The bill would require collaboration, notification and support between OHA and educational institutions in the event of a suspected suicide involving a student.