

SB 14 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 2/11, 2/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to develop and implement statewide education plan for American Indian or Alaskan Native (AI/AN) pre-kindergarten through higher education students. Directs ODE to consult with representatives from tribal governments and executive branch. Permits ODE to consult advisory group.

Establishes plan requirements. Directs ODE to award grants to implement plan. Directs State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt rules establishing criteria for awarding grants. Requires ODE to submit biennial report to legislature on the progress of the plan. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Resources to implement plan
- Graduation and absenteeism rates
- Kindergarten through grade three outcomes
- Middle school transitions and dropping out
- Next steps in partnering with tribal representatives
- Proper terminology and history related to native studies
- Level of knowledge of native people
- Systematic issues
- Assimilation of native people
- Eradication of native languages

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2017-18, American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) students had a 65.3% graduation rate, compared to a 78.7% for the total student population. AI/AN students also have higher absenteeism rates and are less likely to enroll in college than their peers. In addition, AI/AN students have a disproportional discipline rate, with 10.4 percent of AI/AN students and 5.8 percent of total students experiencing a discipline incidence in the 2017-18 school year. SB 14 would require the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to develop a plan to improve the education outcomes for the AI/AN student population. It requires ODE to award grants to education, tribal, and community-based organizations to implement the plan. SB 14 is modeled on HB 2016 (2015) that established a statewide education plan for African American/Black students and builds on ODE's existing Indian/Alaska Native Education State Plan, originally adopted 20 years ago and revised in 2015.