

SB 52 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 2/6, 2/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires school districts to adopt a policy on student suicide prevention for kindergarten through grade 12 students. Establishes requirements for district policies. Establishes training requirements. Requires the policy to ensure school employees act within the authorization and scope of their credentials and licensure in relation to diagnosing and treating mental illness. Permits the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt rules based on consultations with suicide prevention experts and reviews of national models on suicide prevention. Declares that a school district that does not comply with requirements is considered substandard under ORS 327.103. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Requires school districts to adopt policy on suicide prevention in accordance with State Board of Education rules. Requires rules be adopted in consultation with the Oregon Health Authority. Requires school districts to adopt a policy requiring a comprehensive district plan. Eliminates requirement that the policy be available in the employee handbook.

BACKGROUND:

According to the most recent Oregon Healthy Teens Survey, 16 percent of eighth graders and 18 percent of eleventh graders seriously considered attempting suicide during the previous 12 months. The Oregon Health Authority reports that 98 youths age 24 and younger died as a result of suicide in 2016. Senate Bill 52 requires districts to adopt suicide prevention and response policies. The measure is named Adi's Act in honor of Adi Staub, who died by suicide in 2017.