

HB 2902 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Student Success

Meeting Dates: 3/27, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires each school district make an annual report for previous school year on the number of incidents students were removed from classroom because another student was acting in a manner that would threaten or injure another person or school property. Requires report be available at school district's main office and on district website by September 1. Applies to 2019-2020 school year, and first reports be available no later than September 1, 2020. Amends language related to school board policy on reporting of incidents to include identifying number and type of injuries sustained by employees from students. Requires Oregon Department of Education conduct study to investigate impediments to and strategies for hiring and retaining school counselors, school psychologists, speech-language pathologists, behavioral specialists, and education support professionals. Requires ODE conduct study to investigate options for sharing best practices related to quiet rooms, positive behavioral management, restorative justice, behavioral supports, and other methods. Requires reports be submitted to Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2020. Repeals reporting requirements on December 31, 2020. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Effect of room clear policy on classrooms and concerns addressed by school districts and teachers
- Work of reporting requirement as opposed to policy decision, and challenge in dealing with room clears
- Current collection of data by some school districts, and interest in expanding data collection

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Removes the requirement the Oregon Department of Education conduct a study, and report results of study, to investigate impediments to and strategies for hiring and retaining school counselors, school psychologists, speech learning pathologists, behavioral specialists, and education support professionals.

BACKGROUND:

Legislation in 2013 removed the allowance of seclusion cells and physical restraint in schools. In response to these measures, teachers and administrators will remove all students from the room until the student in crisis calms down, and this process is known as a "room clear" or "classroom clear."