

SB 13 A -A4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 4/29, 5/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Updates terms within special education statutes. Changes the term "hearing impairment" to "deafness and being hard of hearing," "autism" to "autism spectrum disorder," "deaf-blindness" to "deafblindness," "emotional disturbance" to "emotional behavior disorder." Separates the term "other health impairment" from "orthopedic impairment."

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Interest in updating language referencing deaf and hard of hearing
- Correcting error from HB 4067 (2018) with A4 Amendment

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A4 Changes term from "Emotional behavior disorder" to "Emotional behavior disability." Changes range for children with developmental delay from "in third grade or lower" to "three through nine years of age."

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) requested the bill to update the term "hearing impairment" with "deafness and being hard of hearing" in Oregon's special education statutes. Oregon's deaf and hard of hearing community informed ODE that the term "hearing impairment" does not adequately describe the wide range of hearing loss and cultural affiliations. ODE requested an amendment to update additional outdated or unclear terms within the special education statutes.