

HB 2514 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 5/8, 5/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires any hearing conducted by a district school board or its hearings officer to be held in executive session or privately if hearing involves confidential student records. Provides exception if student, parent, or guardian requests a public hearing.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Technical fix to existing statute
- Student privacy concerns
- Access to hearings
- Federal and state law conflict
- Ability of school districts to comply with conflicting state and federal law when conducting hearings

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 332.601 requires school boards to conduct a hearing in an executive session or a hearings officers to conduct a hearing privately if the hearing involves expulsion of a minor student or matters pertaining to, or examination of, confidential medical records of a student, unless a public hearing is requested by the student, parent, or guardian. House Bill 2514A expands this requirement to any confidential student records, not just medical records. This change aligns state law with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).