SB 496 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 5/13, 5/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires school districts to provide special education students, alternative education students, or English language learners with the same access to specialized or common areas as traditional students. Provides exception for behavioral issues or compliance with an order from a court or law enforcement agency. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law defines special education as specially designed instruction that is provided at no cost to parents to meet the unique needs of children with disabilities. Oregon law defines alternative education programs as a school or separate class group designed to best serve students' educational needs and interests and to assist students in achieving the academic standards of the school district and state. Oregon law defines an English language learner as a student who has limited English language proficiency because English is not the native language of the student or the student comes from an environment where a language other than English has had a significant impact on the student's level of English language proficiency. Senate Bill 496 A requires school districts to provide the same access to common school areas to all students.

PRELIMINARY