

SB 283 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Prepared By: Tom MacDonald, Budget Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/30, 6/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to review peer-reviewed, independently funded scientific studies on the health effects of exposure to microwave radiation, including in schools or similar environments. Establishes review requirements. Requires OHA to report the results to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly no later than January 2, 2021. Directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to develop recommendations on practices and alternative technologies to reduce students' exposure to microwave radiation, as specified. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Revised fiscal impact statement
- Research presented on the issue during policy committee discussions

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Removes General Fund appropriation.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon public schools serve approximately 581,000 students in 197 school districts. Oregon law directs school districts to provide opportunities for students to use technology. Oregon law also requires school districts to develop and adopt a Healthy and Safe Schools Plan. The plan must address environmental conditions at the facilities owned or leased by the district or school where students or staff are present on a regular basis. Senate Bill 283 directs ODE to inform schools about potential health hazards of using wireless network technology in schools and to provide recommendations for minimizing exposure to possible harmful effects.