

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

HB 2025

Relating to early learning

HB 2025 establishes the Preschool Promise Program within the Early Learning Division in the Oregon Department of Education. The bill expands the eligibility requirements for Oregon pre-kindergarten and specifies teaching and funding requirements to participate in the program. In addition, the bill establishes a scholarship and grant program to develop early childhood care and education professionals and transfers certain reporting duties from the Superintendent of Public Instruction to the Early Learning Division. The measure also sets forth criteria preschool providers must meet to participate in Preschool Promise Program, including annual instruction hours required for a full-day of kindergarten, demonstration of ability to maximize available federal, state, and local funds, and providing a classroom environment that is inclusive all children, regardless of ability or family income.

The budget bill for the Department of Education includes \$30 million General Fund for the Preschool Promise program, OR Prekindergarten program and the Early Head Start program at the current services level. HB 5047, the budget bill for the Student Success Act, includes an additional \$30.8 million for Preschool Promise, \$44.4 million for OR Prekindergarten program, and \$22.3 million for Early Head Start. This funding is scheduled to become available in the second year of the biennium.

The Education Subcommittee recommends HB 2025 be reported out do pass.