

SB 13 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Heard

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 02/06/19

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 4-0-1-0

Yeas: 4 - Gelser, Hass, Heard, Wagner

Exc: 1 - Thomsen

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 1/30, 2/6

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:

- History of the usage of the term "hearing impaired"
- Why "hearing impaired" is an outdated term
- The impact on children of being labeled "impaired"
- Number of deaf citizens in Oregon
- Usage of term "emotional disturbance"

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Provides additional updates to special education terms. It changes the term for "autism" to "autism spectrum disorder," "deaf-blindness" to "deafblindness," "emotional disturbance" to "emotional behavior disorder." Separates the term "other health impairment" from "orthopedic impairment."

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 ODE requested the amendment to update additional outdated or unclear terms within the special education statutes.