

SB 485 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Gelser

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 02/25/19

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 3-0-2-0

Yeas: 3 - Gelser, Thomsen, Wagner

Exc: 2 - Hass, Heard

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/6, 2/13, 2/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to collaborate with public and private schools, public and private universities and colleges, and runaway or homeless youth service providers on a communication plan for responding to suspected suicides of persons 24 years or younger. Requires educational institutions that the individual attended at the time of death to inform OHA of activities implemented to provide support and prevent risk of contagion. Requires OHA to serve as a resource to educational institutions affected by the suspected suicide.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Mental health needs in schools
- Suicide prevention

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2016, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) reported that 98 youths age 24 and younger died as a result of suicide. Under current law, OHA may, but is not required to, collaborate with educational institutions on a communication plan for responding to suspected suicides and to serve as resource as needed by the educational institutions. In addition, educational institutions are not currently required to notify OHA of the activities implemented to provide support and reduce risk of contagion after a suspected suicide. Senate Bill 485 requires collaboration, notification, and support between OHA and educational institutions in the event of a suspected suicide involving a student.