

HB 2902 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

Action Date: 04/08/19

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Student Success by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 8-0-1-0

Yeas: 8 - Alonso Leon, Doherty, Helt, Hernandez, Neron, Reardon, Reschke, Sollman

Exc: 1 - Wallan

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Alethia Miller, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/27, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires each school district to report annually on the number of times students were removed from classrooms because another student was acting in a manner that would threaten or injure a person or school property. Requires report be available at school district's main office and on district website by September 1. Applies to 2019-2020 school year, and requires first reports be available no later than September 1, 2020. Amends language related to school board policy on reporting of incidents to include identifying number and type of injuries sustained by employees from students. Requires Oregon Department of Education (ODE) conduct study to investigate options for sharing best practices related to quiet rooms, positive behavioral management, restorative justice, behavioral supports, and other methods. Requires reports be submitted to Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2020. Repeals reporting requirements on December 31, 2020. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Effect of room clear policy on classrooms and concerns addressed by school districts and teachers
- Work of reporting requirement as opposed to policy decision
- Challenges related to room clears
- Current collection of data by some school districts, and interest in expanding data collection

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Removes the requirement that the Oregon Department of Education conduct a study, and report results of study, to investigate impediments to and strategies for hiring and retaining school counselors, school psychologists, speech learning pathologists, behavioral specialists, and education support professionals.

BACKGROUND:

House bill 2756 A (2013) prohibited public education programs from purchasing, building, or possessing seclusion cells. It required removing seclusion cells from classrooms and school premises by September 1, 2013. With the removal of seclusion cells and physical restraint in schools, teachers and administrators have been removing all students from classrooms until the student in crisis calms down. This process is known as a "room clear" or "classroom clear."

House Bill 2902 A requires that each school district report annually the number of incidents students were removed during room clears. It also requires the Oregon Department of Education conduct a study to investigate options for sharing best practices.