

SB 485 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Helt

House Committee On Education

Action Date: 04/29/19

Action: Do Pass.

Vote: 6-2-1-0

Yeas: 6 - Doherty, Helt, Hernandez, Neron, Reardon, Sollman

Nays: 2 - Reschke, Wallan

Exc: 1 - Alonso Leon

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Alethia Miller, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/22, 4/29

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.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Companion bill in Health committee
- Bill coming from Oregon Youth Suicide Alliance
- Maintaining privacy for families
- Providing resources to ninth graders after hazing incident

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the 2017 Oregon Healthy Teens Survey, suicide is the second leading cause of death among Oregonians aged 10 to 24. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) finds that youth suicides in Oregon have been increasing since 2011, with 107 recorded deaths in 2017. 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.

Senate Bill 485 requires the Oregon Health Authority to collaborate with multiple education entities on a communication plan for responding to suspected suicides of those 24 years or younger.