

HB 2025 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Student Success

Action Date: 05/07/19

Action: Without recommendation as to passage and be referred to Ways and Means.

House Vote

Yeas: 7 - Clem, Fahey, Helt, Lively, Nathanson, Smith G, Smith Warner

Exc: 2 - Hernandez, Sprenger

Senate Vote

Yeas: 4 - Frederick, Hass, Roblan, Taylor

Exc: 2 - Knopp, Thatcher

Abs: 1 - Thomsen

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands Oregon prekindergarten program to serve children prenatally through five years of age. Modifies role of Early Learning Hubs (Hubs). Renames existing preschool program the Preschool Promise Program. Establishes coordination among local entities, including Hubs, resource and referral entities, federal Head Start programs, community-based organizations, and other entities identified by the Early Learning Division (ELD). Requires ELD to identify local entities to serve as preschool provider or fiscal agent for multiple preschool providers. Requires Hubs to complete community plan every two years to identify populations of children and families to enroll and assess availability of high-quality preschool programs. Requires that Hubs annually coordinate and collaborate with preschool providers for preschool programs. Removes responsibility of Hubs to apply for state funding and enter into contracts with local providers. Requires that Oregon prekindergartens provide minimum salaries established by Early Learning Council. Establishes scholarship and grant program jointly administered by Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) and ELD to ensure there are highly qualified early childhood care and education professionals in Oregon. Requires scholarships cover the cost of tuition, fees, and materials to participate in early childhood care or education degree programs. Allows HECC and ELD to approve degrees for scholarship award, and establishes rules for program administration. Determines scholarship eligibility guidelines. Allows for prioritizing scholarships for persons currently enrolled in field of early childhood care or education. Allows HECC and Early Learning Council to adopt rules to implement scholarship program. Establishes one-time grants for institutions of higher education to develop high-quality degree programs for early childhood professionals. Requires ELD, instead of Superintendent of Public Instruction to report to legislature regarding Oregon prekindergarten program.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon's Preschool Promise program is a publicly funded preschool system available to children whose families earn 200 percent of the poverty level or less. It is offered through nine different Early Learning Hub (Hub) regions

HB 2025 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

around the state. The Hubs develop and implement a strategic vision and work plan to achieve the following three goals: (1) create an aligned, coordinated, and family-centered system; (2) ensure children entering school are ready to succeed; and (3) create healthy, stable, and attached families.

House Bill 2025-A expands the Oregon prekindergarten program, which had previously served children three through five years of age whose families earn 100 percent of the federal poverty level or less, to now serve children prenatally through five years of age. It modifies the role of the Hubs, names the existing preschool program the Preschool Promise Program, and requires the Early Learning Division to identify coordinating entities. It requires the Hubs to complete a community plan every two years to identify populations of children and families to enroll and assess availability of preschool programs. It establishes a scholarship and grant program jointly administered by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) and Early Learning Division (ELD) to ensure there are highly qualified early childhood care and education professionals in Oregon. It transfers the current reporting requirements for the Oregon prekindergarten program from the Superintendent of Public Instruction to the ELD.