

HB 2902 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Student Success

Action Date: 05/21/19

Action: Without recommendation as to passage, with amendments, and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed B-Eng.)

House Vote

Yeas: 8 - Fahey, Helt, Hernandez, Lively, Nathanson, Smith G, Smith Warner, Sprenger

Exc: 1 - Clem

Senate Vote

Yeas: 7 - Frederick, Hass, Knopp, Roblan, Taylor, Thatcher, Thomsen

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/14, 5/21

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 themselves, another person, or school property. Requires that report be sent to the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) by September 1 each year. First applies to 2020-2021 school year, and requires first reports to be sent to ODE by September 1, 2021. Sunsets after 2024-2025 school year. Requires ODE to publish district reports annually by December 31, and repeals reporting requirement on December 31, 2025. Gives rulemaking authority to State Board of Education. Requires ODE to conduct study to investigate options for sharing best practices related to quiet rooms, positive behavioral management, restorative justice, behavioral supports, and other methods. Requires that reports be submitted to Legislative Assembly no later than September 15, 2020. Repeals study on December 31, 2020. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Removes requirement for reporting of injuries to staff. Requires that districts submit report to Oregon Department of Education (ODE). Requires that ODE publish district reports annually. Adds harm to self as precipitating cause. Establishes first school year requiring reports as 2020-2021. Sunsets reporting requirement after the 2024-2025 school year. Gives ODE rulemaking authority.

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 limitations on 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 B requires that each school district report annually to the Oregon Department of Education the number of incidents students were removed during room clears, and requires the department to publish those numbers. It also requires the Oregon Department of Education conduct a study to investigate options for sharing best practices.