

House Bill 2074

Sponsored by Representative SOLLMAN (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs Oregon Department of Administrative Services to prepare tentative budget for funding of State School Fund. Requires department to form committee for purpose of preparing tentative budget. Prescribes factors to be considered by committee.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to the method for funding public education.

3 Whereas funding for kindergarten through grade 12 public education now comprises nearly half
4 of the state's General Fund budget; and

5 Whereas the primary source of funding for kindergarten through grade 12 public education
6 comes from appropriations made by the Legislative Assembly from the General Fund to the State
7 School Fund; and

8 Whereas the Legislative Assembly must develop biennial state budgets based on available re-
9 sources; and

10 Whereas the state budgeting process depends on an accurate analysis of current resources and
11 uncontrollable cost drivers; and

12 Whereas the public relies on fiscal analyses to describe public education fiscal facts with the
13 greatest accuracy possible; and

14 Whereas the calculation process for determining the current service level for public education
15 that is prescribed by the Governor's Executive Order 14-14 has introduced instability to public ed-
16 ucation funding and relies, in part, on policies and organizational entities that are no longer in force
17 or no longer exist; and

18 Whereas confusion about the meaning of the current service level and confusion about the level
19 itself have impacted the stability of school budgets; and

20 Whereas the state's calculation of a budget for kindergarten through grade 12 public education
21 based on current service levels has not and cannot be developed at the level of detail as for other
22 state programs; and

23 Whereas the Quality Education Commission calculates the gap between baseline funding for
24 public education and its recommended full-funding level for public education based on the current
25 service level calculation; and

26 Whereas policymakers rely on the accuracy of the current service level calculation to gauge
27 whether proposed appropriation levels will result in stable school budgets; and

28 Whereas the State of Oregon has an interest in directing the process for determining the current
29 service level for kindergarten through grade 12 public schools based on accurate information and
30 collaboration among all key entities involved in the school finance process; now, therefore,

31 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 2 of this 2019 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 327.006 to
2 **327.133.**

3 **SECTION 2.** (1) Each even-numbered year, the Oregon Department of Administrative
4 Services shall prepare a tentative budget for funding the State School Fund for the next
5 biennium.

6 (2) For the purpose of preparing the tentative budget, the department shall form a com-
7 mittee. The committee must include:

8 (a) Representatives from the Department of Education, the Legislative Fiscal Office, the
9 Legislative Revenue Officer and the Governor's office;

10 (b) Representatives of school districts, school budget committees and education labor
11 unions; and

12 (c) The cochairs of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, who shall serve as non-
13 voting members on the committee formed under this subsection.

14 (3) The tentative budget prepared under this section must be based on the calculations
15 made by the committee formed under subsection (2) of this section. The committee must
16 consider different methodologies for calculating the tentative budget and must base the
17 tentative budget on the projected costs of continuing currently authorized operating revenue
18 per weighted average daily membership, as calculated under ORS 327.013 (1)(c)(A), including:

19 (a) Projected changes in the cost of personal services, other services, supplies and capital
20 expenditures, based on anticipated expenses;

21 (b) Forecasted local revenues, as described in ORS 327.011 and as calculated by the
22 Oregon Department of Administrative Services, the Legislative Fiscal Officer, the Legislative
23 Revenue Officer and the Department of Revenue; and

24 (c) Projected cost factors that may arise from new laws and administrative rules.

25 (4) The Oregon Department of Administrative Services shall present the tentative budget
26 prepared under this section to the Governor and to the Legislative Assembly in conjunction
27 with the report issued by the Quality Education Commission under ORS 327.506 (4).

28 (5) The tentative budget prepared under this section shall become part of the agency re-
29 quest budget for the Department of Education for the purpose of ORS 291.208.

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