

HB 4127 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Prepared By: Tom MacDonald, Budget Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/24, 2/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs school districts to provide age-appropriate instruction in oral health to students in kindergarten through grade 12 as part of health education curriculum beginning July 1, 2025. Requires State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt any health education content standards necessary, no later than September 1, 2024, to enable school district compliance with oral health instruction. Establishes consultation requirements for SBE. Directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to establish and maintain Community Dental Health Coordinator Pilot Program (Pilot Program) to support school-based oral health programs through the deployment of four coordinators beginning January 1, 2021. Requires that Community Dental Health Coordinators be certified by a training program based on curriculum developed by the American Dental Association or its successor. Directs the Pilot Program towards students who are ethnic or racial minorities, and English Language Learners, and students enrolled at schools eligible for financial assistance. Directs OHA to seek funding through gifts, grants, or other contributions from public and private sources. Allows for sponsorship funding of coordinators. Allows OHA to adopt rules to implement Pilot Program. Repeals Pilot Program and Fund on June 30, 2025. Implements Pilot Program and Fund on January 1, 2022 if at least \$200,000 becomes available in Fund. Directs OHA to notify the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to education and Legislative Counsel when enough money becomes available. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Merits of the bill
- No General Fund impact

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to the Oregon Oral Health Coalition, oral disease is almost 100 percent preventable if students have access to oral health education. The American Dental Association created the Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC) program in 2006. The purpose of the program is to provide community-based prevention, care coordination, and patient navigation to connect people who do not receive care from a dentist. The American Dental Association gave an example of a CDHC providing services to 114 patients in a rural tribal community health center's diabetes clinic.

House Bill 4127 directs school districts to provide age-appropriate instruction in oral health to students in kindergarten through grade 12 as part of health education curriculum beginning July 1, 2025. It also directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to establish and maintain Community Dental Health Coordinator Pilot Program (Pilot Program) to support school-based oral health programs through the deployment of four coordinators certified by a training program based on curriculum developed by the American Dental Association or its successor.