

SB 299 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

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Meeting Dates: 2/8, 3/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes formation of children's special districts and provides districts the authority to assess, levy and collect taxes to pay the cost of children's services within the boundaries of the district. Defines children's services as services that support children's total health and well-being that are provided to children outside of school hours. Requires district to discontinue a project if an action is filed asserting valid claim that any revenue of the district is subject to the \$5 limitation per \$1,000 of real market value under Article XI, section 11b, of Oregon Constitution. Requires petition for formation of children's special district to be signed by greater of 10 percent or more of electors in territory or 100 electors. Aligns formation and changes of organization of children's special districts with existing special district statutes.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Compression of taxing districts
- Pandemic effects on children
- Loss of property tax revenue due to Measure 5 and Measure 50 limitations
- Unfunded and curtailed children's programs
- Unfunded and curtailed local government provisions

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Clarifies that termination of programs as a result of a valid measure 5 educational limitation claim only apply to persons that own or are liable for ad valorem property taxes on real property located within a children's service district.

BACKGROUND:

Changes to current law provided by the measure will allow for the creation of children's special districts. However, no children's special districts will be created directly because of the measure, as it requires approval of electors. ORS 198.705 - 198.955 provide the general requirements for formation of new special districts. ORS 198.815 requires proposals for formation that include a permanent rate limit for operating taxes of a proposed district to be voted on in either a May or November election.

Article XI, Section 11b. of the Oregon Constitution states: Property tax revenues are deemed to be dedicated to funding the public school system if the revenues are to be used exclusively for educational services, including support services, provided by some unit of government, at any level from pre-kindergarten through post-graduate training.