

SB 236 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 2/24, 4/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Early Learning Division of Oregon Department of Education to study the use of suspension and expulsion in early childhood care and education programs. Establishes reporting requirements. Adds training for early childhood educators responding to children exhibiting mental or behavioral health challenges to list of allowable uses for Early Learning Account created by the Student Success Act. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Suspensions and expulsions in early learning and care settings
- Disproportionate impact on children of color
- Impact of ban on providers

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Replaces the measure. Requires Early Learning Division to report to legislature by September 15, 2024 on efforts to reduce suspension and expulsion in early learning and care settings. Prohibits early learning and care providers that receives state funding from suspending or expelling any child beginning July 1, 2026. Allows Early Learning System Director or designee to waive prohibition. Requires rulemaking that provides for waivers and a dispute resolution process that considers the best placement for the child. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2021.

REVENUE: *No revenue impact*

FISCAL: *Minimal impact*

BACKGROUND:

In 2016, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Administration for Children and Families issued a policy statement on expulsion and suspension policies in early childhood settings. That statement recommended that states establish policies applicable in both publicly and privately funded settings to promote mental and behavioral health and eliminate or limit the use of exclusionary discipline in early childhood settings. The National Association for the Education of Young Children estimates that over 8,000 children are suspended or expelled from early learning settings annually in the United States. Senate Bill 236-2 requires the Early Learning Division to study the use of suspension and expulsion in early learning settings and prohibits recipients of state funding from suspending or expelling any child. The measure establishes waiver and dispute resolution processes and requires the Early Learning Council to promulgate related rules.