

SB 225 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 04/12/21

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Rules. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

Vote: 3-2-0-0

Yeas: 3 - Dembrow, Gelser, Gorsek

Nays: 2 - Robinson, Thomsen

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: Revenue impact issued

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Meeting Dates: 3/31, 4/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies definition of alternative education program. Modifies contracting requirements, legal requirements, and placement requirements. Establishes reporting requirements. Applies most changes to 2021-2022 school year and requires compliance with ORS 336.631 (2) by 2022-2023 school year. Modifies requirements relating to parental notification and school district enrollment proposals. Requires parental consent for enrollment in alternative education program. Establishes special education requirements for alternative education programs. Modifies funding rates for alternative education programs. Establishes contracting requirements. Requires half of faculty of alternative education programs to be licensed by 2023. Requires unlicensed employees to undergo criminal records checks. Modifies annual evaluation requirements. Modifies requirements relating to notice of and proposal for placement in alternative education prior to suspension or expulsion. Requires school board consideration of contracts that provide for members of law enforcement agency to be assigned to schools beginning January 1, 2022. Modifies distribution to education service districts for student success funds beginning July 1, 2021. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2021.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Alternative education programs' ability to serve students' needs
- Funding for alternative education programs
- School resource officer contracting procedures
- Education Service District funding

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, the statutes governing alternative education programs specify a payment calculation that is lower than the rates that apply to charter high schools in the state. Additionally, school district superintendents can unilaterally enter into contracts with law enforcement agencies to assign officers to schools. Senate Bill 225 A modifies the state's alternative education statutes, requires that school boards consider any contract between a law enforcement agency and the school district, and establishes a minimum distribution for education service districts receiving funds from the Statewide Education Initiatives Account.