

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**Measure: HB 2240**

82nd Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2023 Regular Session

Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

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Measure Description:

Exempts from health care interpreter requirements individuals providing services as employees or contractors of school districts, public charter schools and education service districts.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

School Districts, Public Charter Schools, Education Service Districts, Department of Education

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

The measure is anticipated to have no fiscal impact - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

House Bill 2240 exempts health care providers that work in school districts, public charter schools, and education service districts from providing registered health care interpretation services to students who prefer to communicate in a language other than English. The measure takes effect on passage.

Under current law, health care providers are required to work with registered health care interpreters. The law applies to any individual licensed or certified by certain health care-related state licensing boards and any person that provides health care or receives compensation for providing health care who is reimbursed with public funds. These requirements took effect upon passage of House Bill 2359 (2021), which was intended to improve translation and interpretation services in the health care sector, including hospitals, clinics, doctor's offices, and nursing homes. Based on the legislative history of HB 2359, the current law was never intended to apply to health care providers in school districts, public charter schools, and education service districts.

The current law does not penalize school districts for failure to comply with the health care interpreter requirements. The law only applies to individual health care providers who are licensed by licensing boards, and failure to comply with the law could theoretically lead to health care providers losing their licenses to practice in their field. However, many licensing boards have already exempted health care providers working in school districts, public charter schools, and education service districts through rulemaking from working with registered health care interpreters.

HB 2359 did not provide funding to school districts, public charter schools, and education service districts to implement the requirement that health care providers work with registered health care interpreters, and health care providers did not in practice with registered health care interpreters in school districts, public charter schools, and education service districts. For that reason, the measure is anticipated to have no fiscal impact on school districts, public charter schools, education service districts, and the Department of Education.