

SB 281 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/2, 2/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates an unspecified amount of General Fund to the Oregon Department of Education to conduct a review of the methodology used to produce the Quality Education Commission's biennial report and to update the methodology so it considers all moneys appropriated for public education and ensure that the quality goals would adequately prepare students for careers or postsecondary education. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of Quality Education Model (QEM)
- Need to modernize QEM

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 1997, House Speaker Lynn Lundquist appointed a committee to determine the cost of a quality education for every student. The committee, consisting of educators, parents, business leaders, and legislators, met over the next biennium to devise a tool on which to base a kindergarten through 12th grade (K-12) budget. The committee presented its findings to the 1999 Legislative Assembly in the form of the Oregon Quality Education Model. Governor John Kitzhaber and State Schools Superintendent Stan Bunn then appointed a Quality Education Commission (QEC) in fall 1999. As part of its work, that body offered a model that phased in the necessary funding. The 2001 Legislative Assembly continued this work by enacting [House Bill 2295](#), codified at [ORS 327.497 to 327.506](#), that placed the QEC in statute and directed it to refine and update the model on an ongoing basis.

The QEC consists of 11 members appointed by the Governor and supported by staff from the Oregon Department of Education. Each biennium, the QEC must:

- determine the amount of money sufficient to ensure that the state's kindergarten through 12th grade education system meets the quality goals established in law;
- identify best practices that lead to high student performance, as well as the costs of implementing those practices; and
- issue a report that identifies current practices, the costs of those practices, and expected student performance under those practices as well as the best practices, the costs of those practices, and expected student performance under the best practices

The Quality Education Model (QEM) is what the QEC uses to complete its work. The QEM identifies components of a quality education, then estimates the cost of implementing those components statewide. The model is based on prototypical schools, encompasses the goals and requirements established in statute, and includes quality indicators. The QEC meets to refine the model and makes changes in each biennial report. Schools are not required to adhere to the model's components. In Oregon, school districts have the authority to devise local budgets according to their own needs, with community input required by state law.

Senate Bill 281 appropriates an unspecified amount of money to review and update the QEM.