

HB 2726 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Prepared By: Matthew Perreault, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Southern Oregon Early Learning Services (SOELS) to administer pilot program in Jackson and Josephine Counties that would coordinate resources and supports available to low-income pregnant individuals and families with young children. Appropriates \$25 million General Fund to Early Learning Division (ELD) for upcoming biennium for SOELS to administer pilot program. Directs SOELS to deposit \$10 million into Early Childhood Support Fund for distribution to organizations that provide direct financial assistance and \$15 million into Child Care Workforce Fund for distribution to child care providers for facility improvement and workforce compensation. Requires ELD to report on program outcomes to interim legislative committees by September 15, 2024. Sunsets January 2, 2029. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Early Learning Hubs were created when the Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 2013 (2013), which directed the Early Learning Council to establish a statewide system of regional partnerships that would provide wraparound supports to families with young children. Early Learning Hubs are responsible for coordinating early learning services in the region, including child care, education, human services, and public health, in the interest of promoting school readiness for young children. Oregon has 16 regional Early Learning Hubs covering every region of the state, plus the Tribal Learning Hub for tribal communities that was created by House Bill 2055 (2021). A public or private entity, such as a city, county, school district, education service district, higher education institution, or nonprofit organization, may apply to be designated by the Early Learning Council as the Early Learning Hub for a given region. For example, Southern Oregon Early Learning Services, the Early Learning Hub for Jackson and Josephine Counties, is organized by Southern Oregon Education Service District.

House Bill 2726 directs Southern Oregon Early Learning Services to administer a pilot program in Jackson and Josephine Counties that would coordinate resources and supports that are available to low-income pregnant individuals and families with young children. The measure appropriates \$25 million to carry out the program and directs the Early Learning Division to report to legislative committees on program outcomes.