

SB 48 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 3/7, 3/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires court to forward abstract of conviction to Oregon Department of Education (ODE) for convictions for compulsory school attendance violations. Established fines for violations of compulsory attendance law. Established violation of compulsory school attendance law as Class C violation. Applies provisions to school absences occurring on or after act takes effect.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Truancy law prior to 2021
- Need for means of holding students and parents accountable

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Replaces the measure. Establishes Task Force on School Attendance, membership requirements for task force, study requirements, and reporting requirements. Requires Legislative Policy and Research Office to provide staff support. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

BACKGROUND:

Prior to passage of Senate Bill 817 in 2021, violations of Oregon's compulsory school attendance laws were Class C violations. As a result, Oregon law allowed for youth offenders and their families to be assessed for costs throughout the juvenile court system process. Although not applied uniformly throughout the state, a youth offender and their family could have been sanctioned for failing to pay court-related costs. Those sanctions included extended supervision, late fees, collections, and tax liens. Senate Bill 817 removed statutory language making violations of compulsory attendance laws a Class C violation. Senate Bill 48 reinstates violations of compulsory attendance laws as a Class C violation.