

SB 551 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 3/7, 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires school districts, education service districts, and charter schools to provide information on the importance of secure storage of medications and firearms. Requires that information be provided on website and via social media accounts. Requires information be provided electronically and on paper at least twice each school year. Requires Oregon Health Authority to ensure schools' compliance with requirements.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Eliminates requirement for social media posting.

BACKGROUND:

In 2012, the U.S. Surgeon General and the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention released a report titled [National Strategy for Suicide Prevention](#). The report identified safe storage as a means of addressing suicides as well as unintentional injuries and deaths. A [2018 study by the Rand Corporation](#) identified the potential for public health education campaigns to influence behavior, but pointed out challenges as well. Also in 2018, school boards around the country began enacting local requirements for the distribution of safe storage information at the request of national advocacy organizations. In 2022, California enacted Senate Bill 906, requiring in part that local education agencies provide annual information to parents and guardians related to the safe storage of firearms. California requires model content to be developed by the California Department of Education.

Senate Bill 551 requires school districts, education service districts, and charter schools to distribute information on safe storage of firearms and medication.