

SB 285 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 4/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies statutes relating to Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching (OSCIM) program. Increases required matching funds to \$6 million and changes maximum grant size to \$12 million. Removes ability of school district to request grant at ratio of less than one-to-one. Increases percentage of funds tied to priority list to sixty-six percent. Decreases percent of funds available based on order of receipt of applications to thirty-four percent. Allows State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt other factors for consideration. Requires SBE to adjust dollar amounts of maximum grants biennially for inflation. Modifies maximum amount of technical assistance program (TAP) grants and allows education service districts to apply for TAP grants. Modifies amounts for facilities assessments, long-range plans, environmental hazards assessments, and seismic assessments. Requires SBE to adjust maximum amount of TAP grants biennially.

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

SENATE VOTE: Passed. Ayes, 26; Nays, 1; Excused, 3.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching (OSCIM) program provisions
- Uses of funds by school districts
- Deferred maintenance and construction needs of school buildings

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching (OSCIM) program provides matching grants to districts that pass a local bond measure. The program attempts to encourage local communities to invest in their own district's school facilities. Districts know ahead of the election what the state commitment will be, so community members can make an informed decision on their local bond measure.

The OSCIM program requires districts to submit a facilities assessment and a long-range plan. Grants are available to help districts with these requirements through the technical assistance program (TAP).

Under current law, districts are awarded grants based either on their position on the priority list or based on when they submit their grant application. Current grants are up to \$4 million for most districts, with some districts receiving up to \$8 million. For the 2021-2023 biennium, a total of over \$142 million was available to districts through the OSCIM grant program.

Senate Bill 285 A modifies the amount required for matching in the OSCIM program, the total amount of awards, the percentages allocated to the priority and first-in-line lists, and enacts new provisions related to biennial adjustments for inflation.