

HB 2618 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 4/18, 5/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to identify best methodology for determining appropriate workload for school-based speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists. Requires methodology to consider specified elements. Requires ODE to consider workload metrics used in other states. Requires ODE to develop or recommend adoption of workload metric for use in Oregon, and to submit report to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2023. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

HOUSE VOTE: Ayes, 38; Nays, 20; Excused, 2

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Increased need for services
- Ability for healthcare practitioners to fulfill ethical and legal obligations to students with disabilities

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Past bills to limit caseloads include [House Bill 3263 \(2017\)](#) and [House Bill 2985 \(2019\)](#), identical bills which would have required the State Board of Education to adopt rules limiting the workloads of occupational therapists (OTs) and occupational therapy assistants (OTAs), and allowed an OT to supervise a team of OTAs to provide services to children with individualized education plans (IEPs). Workload is a measurement of the amount of work required to successfully manage assigned cases with consideration for unique supports and services each child requires, as opposed to caseload, which typically refers to the absolute number of cases or students assigned to an employee.

House Bill 2618 A requires the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to study and to develop or recommend adoption of a workload metric for school-based speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists for use in Oregon.