

HB 3031 -5 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 5/4, 5/11, 5/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to study matters related to ventilation and energy efficiency in schools. Requires ODE to report findings and possible recommendations to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2024.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of amendment
- Grant funding available to school districts
- Potential reduction in school operating costs
- Ability for school districts to meet labor standards
- Lack of obligation to carry out provisions without funding
- Assistance for small districts to apply for grant funding

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-5 Replaces the measure. Requires school district to expend federal and state funds made available for indoor HVAC infrastructure improvements toward carrying out provisions of measure. Exempts school districts from carrying out provisions until such funds are expended. Requires school districts to have ventilation verification assessments performed by qualified testing personnel every five years. Establishes program requirements for assessments. Requires school districts to place carbon dioxide monitor in every classroom. Establishes requirements for carbon dioxide monitors. Requires that qualified testing personnel assess carbon dioxide monitors. Establishes requirements for adjusting classroom ventilation. Establishes recordkeeping requirements. Requires school districts to obtain HVAC assessment report done by qualified testing personnel. Establishes content and review requirements for reports. Requires school districts to perform adjustments, repairs, upgrades, or replacements recommended by mechanical engineer. Establishes apprenticeship, safety, and benefit and wage requirements for school district contractors carrying out indoor HVAC infrastructure improvements. Requires school districts to submit HVAC verification reports to Oregon Department of Education. Establishes content requirements for report. Requires ODE to maintain reports for at least five years. Establishes that reports are public record. Allows Oregon Department of Education to adopt rules to carry out measure.

BACKGROUND:

Classroom ventilation gained national prominence as an issue during the COVID-19 pandemic. Effective ventilation can, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, minimize viral transmission in schools. Research conducted by [The Oregonian/OregonLive in May, 2022](#) found that one-quarter of classrooms in Portland Public Schools did not meet minimum recommendations for ventilation established by Harvard University and other organizations concerned with air quality. A [2021 report by the American Society of Civil Engineers](#) found that 53% of public school districts needed to update or replace multiple building systems, including HVAC systems. The newly established [Renew America's Schools](#) grant program makes \$500 million available to K-12 districts to perform energy improvements. The initial \$80 million round of funding closed in April 2023.

House Bill 3031 requires the Oregon Department of Education to study ventilation and energy efficiency in schools and submit a report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2024.