

HB 2656 A -A6 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Prepared By: Michael Graham, Fiscal Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

House Bill 2656 A requires each school district in the state to provide two informational surveys to school district students: one administered by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to gather information about the education experiences of students in the state, including information on learning, opportunities to learn, and school culture and climate; and one administered by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), in collaboration with ODE, to improve the health and well-being of all students in the state and to help them succeed. ODE must annually review the surveys and make revisions in the data collection and distribution of data to enable school districts to better assist schools.

At least five days prior to administering a survey, school districts must provide notice and an opportunity to review the survey to the parents or guardians of the students to whom the survey will be administered. Parents or guardians may decline, either verbally or in writing, to have their children participate in these surveys, and students may decline at any time to participate in these surveys, either verbally or in writing. Students who participate in these surveys may decline to answer specific questions.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction must convene an advisory committee to explore options for expanding or revising the education accountability framework in this state. The advisory committee must include representatives of school districts, teachers' unions, and post-secondary institutions of education. The measure takes effect on January 1, 2024.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fiscal impact of the measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A6 The -A6 amendment appropriates a total of \$1,459,102 General Fund, in two separate appropriations to ODE and OHA, in the 2023-25 biennium. This includes an appropriation of \$488,763 General Fund to ODE to administer the survey on education experiences, convene an advisory committee, and hire two permanent positions (1.76 FTE); and an appropriation of \$970,339 General Fund to OHA to retain a survey contractor to program, test, and deploy the survey on the health and well-being of students, develop recruitment materials, conduct outreach and recruitment at school districts, develop and maintain survey results and reports, and hire three permanent positions (1.88 FTE).

BACKGROUND:

OHA currently conducts a biennial Student Health Survey of 6th, 8th, and 11th graders, in collaboration with ODE. ODE conducted its second pilot Student Educational Equity Development Survey to measure the educational experiences of students in the 2021-2022 school year.

The LGBTQ2SIA+ Student Success Plan from ODE, which was revised in February 2022, noted that the state does not currently have "a statewide school climate survey to assess youth experiences and well-being at school," instead relying on national surveys with state-specific data. The report included the development of a statewide school climate survey among its recommendations.

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House Bill 2656 A requires school districts to ensure their students' participation in statewide health and climate surveys, including one administered by ODE to gather information about the education experiences of students in the state, including information on learning, opportunities to learn, and school culture and climate; and one administered by OHA, in collaboration with ODE, to improve the health and well-being of all students in the state and to help them succeed. The measure also requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to convene an advisory committee on accountability in Oregon's kindergarten through grade 12 education system.