

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

HB 2991

Relating to Enhancing Access to Jobs in the Early Childhood Workforce

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Capital Construction Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Valderrama

HB 2991 appropriates \$300,000 General Fund to the Department of Early Learning and Care to commission an independent study that identifies barriers to a high-quality early childhood workforce and provides guidance for future professional development specific to the needs of the early childhood workforce in Oregon. In selecting an entity to conduct the study, the agency must prioritize either a community-based nonprofit organization or a firm that has received certification issued by the Certification Office for Business Inclusion and Diversity. The Department of Early Learning and Care must submit two reports to legislative committees related to early learning and care by September 15, 2024, and December 31, 2024, respectively. The measure takes effect on passage and is repealed on January 2, 2026.

The -A3 amendment extends the repeal date to January 2, 2026 and does not change the estimated costs of the study. The fiscal impact of the measure is \$300,000 General Fund to the Department of Early Learning and Care for the 2023-25 biennium. LFO notes that the agency anticipates increasing its annual contract with the Oregon Center for Career Development, therefore the agency may need to request additional funding during a Legislative Emergency Board or the 2024 legislative session.

The Capital Construction Subcommittee recommends HB 2991 be amended by the –A3 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.