

SB 48 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 03/23/23

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

Vote: 5-2-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Anderson, Dembrow, Frederick, President Wagner, Weber

Nays: 2 - Gelser Blouin, Robinson

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/7, 3/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Task Force on School Attendance. Specifies membership requirements for task force, study requirements, and reporting requirements. Requires Legislative Policy and Research Office to provide staff support. Sunsets January 2, 2025. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Truancy law prior to 2021
- Need for means of holding students and parents accountable

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Prior to passage of Senate Bill 817 in 2021, violations of Oregon's compulsory school attendance laws were Class C violations. As a result, Oregon law allowed for youth offenders and their families to be assessed for costs throughout the juvenile court system process. Although not applied uniformly throughout the state, a youth offender and their family could have been sanctioned for failing to pay court-related costs. Those sanctions included extended supervision, late fees, collections, and tax liens. Senate Bill 817 removed statutory language making violations of compulsory attendance laws a Class C violation. As a result of the change enacted in Senate Bill 817, schools lost the use of a tool that had proven effective at returning youth to regular school attendance in some cases. Senate Bill 48 A establishes a Task Force on School Attendance.