FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

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Measure Description:

Establishes pilot program to provide funding to school districts for purposes of increasing access to schools by homeless students and improving academic achievement of homeless students.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Education, Department of Human Services, School Districts

Analysis:

This fiscal impact statement is for the purpose of transmitting the measure from the Senate Committee on Education to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

The measure directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to establish a pilot program to provide grants to school districts with significant populations of homeless students. Grants are to be awarded from the Statewide Education Initiatives Account, and must be used to provide direct assistance to homeless students to increase access to school and improve academic achievement. The measure outlines how grant amounts will be determined, criteria for selection of school districts for participation in the program, and reporting requirements. ODE may provide technical assistance to participating school districts and may collaborate with the Department of Human Services to identify locations in each school district to use as shelters for homeless students. This program is operative July 1, 2024.

The measure also requires ODE to develop and implement a statewide education plan for plan students, defined as a student enrolled in early childhood through post-secondary education who is considered a homeless child or youth and has experienced disproportionate results in education due to historical practices, as identified by ODE by rule. ODE is to form an advisory group to inform the plan. ODE is also to award grants to Early Learning Hubs, providers of early learning services, school districts, education service districts, post-secondary institutions of education, tribal governments, community-based organizations, or a consortium of these entities to implement the strategies provided in the plan.

A more complete fiscal analysis on the measure will be prepared as the measure is considered in the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

Further Analysis Required