

HB 4068 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

Action Date: 02/07/24

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Cramer, Hudson, McIntire, Neron, Nguyen H, Valderrama, Wright

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/5, 2/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure expands the use of the High Cost Disabilities Account to districts that have high special education costs due to community need. The measure also appropriates \$150 million to the account to carry out the provisions of the amendment. Effective July 1, 2024.

Detailed Summary:

Allows school districts that have disproportionately high costs related to special education based on a community impact to access the High Cost Disabilities Account, even if no individual student meets the current \$30,000 threshold. Directs distributions made to these districts as equal to the approved costs incurred by the districts minus amounts directed to the districts for special education under the State School Fund. Effective July 1, 2024.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Differences in special education costs across districts
- Challenges in rural districts related to special education
- Inadequacy of federal funding through IDEA
- Percentage of eligible expenses that received reimbursement from the state

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

The High Cost Disability Account was created in 2005 to assist districts in paying for special education costs for individual students whose educational needs cost school districts in excess of \$30,000. Under current law, districts cannot receive funds from this account unless an individual student meets the \$30,000 threshold.

According to the Oregon Department of Education's [spring enrollment report for the 2022-2023 school year](#), the local education providers with the highest percentage of students with disabilities are youth corrections and juvenile detention at 49 percent, Butte Falls School District at 32 percent, North Lake School District at 27 percent, and Riddle School District at 26 percent. Several school districts, including Pine Eagle, North Douglas, McKenzie, and Knappa have identification rates of 22 percent. Dufur and Willamina round out the top ten at 21 percent.