

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/01/15

Action: Do Pass And Be Referred To Ways And Means By Prior Reference

Meeting Dates: 03/11, 04/01

Vote:

Yeas: 9 - Barreto, Doherty, Frederick, Hack, McLain, Piluso, Reardon, Sprenger, Wilson

Prepared By: Richard Donovan, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Department of Education to administer process for providing funding for activities related to annual conference dedicated to Oregon civics and held on Oregon Civics Day for Teachers. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Department of Education for purpose of conference. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2015.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Bill as enhancing civics education for teachers
- Value of professional training on civics
- Goal of allowing two teachers from each legislative district (180 teachers total) to attend civics conference
- Questions regarding alternative options for teachers to attend other than existing conference

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

SB 374 (2009), codified as ORS 336.029, established the first Friday in December as “Oregon Civics Day for Teachers.” It is a professional development day, with the goal of aiding educators in providing quality instruction in the area of civics. House Bill 2599 amends ORS 336.029 to require the Department of Education to administer a process for providing funding for activities related to an annual conference dedicated to Oregon civics and held on Oregon Civics Day for Teachers. This funding must be used to award grants to two public school teachers from each legislative district for expenses incurred to attend the conference, assist a nonprofit organization with operating expenses incurred in relation to the conference, and provide technical and professional assistance to teachers who attend the conference. Additionally, the measure includes an appropriation to the Department of Education for this purpose from the General Fund in the amount of \$200,000 per biennium.