

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Education

MEASURE: HB 2597 A
CARRIER: Sen. Gelser

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 05/26/15

Action: Do Pass The A-Eng Bill.

Meeting Dates: 05/19, 05/26

Vote:

Yeas: 6 - Baertschiger Jr, Beyer, Hass, Knopp, Kruse, Roblan

Exc: 1 - Gelser

Prepared By: Gretchen Engbring, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires truancy notice to parent or person in parental relation of right to request evaluation for Individualized Education Program (IEP) or review of existing IEP. Prohibits scheduling of attendance conference between parent or guardian of student, student, and designated official until evaluation or review has been completed. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2015.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Improperly treated or untreated disabilities as contributing to truancy
- Significant percentage of students with disabilities considered “truant”
- Importance of early identification and IEPs in preventing further truancy, higher future costs, and escalation of unaddressed conditions
- High cost of additional IEP evaluations and reviews

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Special education refers to the system that organizes the provision of education for students with disabilities. The system consists of administrative structures, a body of case law and statutes, legal processes, and specialized educational delivery systems. For each student identified as having a disability and eligible for special education services, an IEP must be prepared by a special education committee. The IEP committee is required to include the child’s teacher, a school district representative, someone familiar with the evaluation process used, and the child’s parents or guardians. Under certain circumstances, the student may also participate in development of the IEP. In the 2009-2010 school year, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) found that 13 percent of Oregon students qualified for some form of special education service.

House Bill 2597-A requires schools to give notice through existing processes that a student given a truancy notice is eligible for either an IEP meeting or IEP review, as appropriate. The measure also pauses all legal proceedings related to truancy until the time that the requested IEP evaluation process or review process has concluded.