

## HB 2693 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Education

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**Action Date:** 04/12/17

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

**Vote:** 7-2-0-0

**Yeas:** 7 - Doherty, Evans, Hernandez, McLain, Sollman, Sprenger, Vial

**Nays:** 2 - Parrish, Wilson

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Department of Education (ODE) award grants to school districts for up to 50 percent of student transportation costs and costs associated with alternate modes of transportation including public transit for grades 9 through 12. Allows ODE to review applications and requires State Board of Education (SBE) to establish criteria. Establishes grant amount for school district to equal formula relative to include school district's weighted Average Daily Membership. Allows SBE adopt necessary rules. Defines provision of transportation as school bus, school activity vehicle and commercial bus operated by a city or county. Prioritizes school districts that had not been receiving public moneys before the effective date of this Act. Appropriates \$5,000,000 from the General Fund.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Amendment clarifies Oregon Department of Education's and Oregon Department of Transportation's need to define what clarifies and qualifies a vehicle for transit
- Transportation is a barrier to education and needs to be discussed more often
- Measure allows conversations between transit districts and school districts to unfold

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Defines provision of transportation as school bus, school activity vehicle and commercial bus operated by a city or county. Prioritizes school districts that had not been receiving public moneys before the effective date of this Act. Appropriates \$5,000,000 from the General Fund.

#### BACKGROUND:

School districts currently provide documentation to the State of Oregon on the dollar amount spent on transportation and, depending on the district, are reimbursed at 70 percent, 80 percent or 90 percent. The district with the highest cost per student is set at the 100 percent reimbursement mark, while the other schools are listed in descending order based on their costs per Average Daily Membership (ADM). Districts with students located farther apart are paying higher costs (gas, vehicle maintenance, driver time), which is why the formula does not reimburse per student but uses ADM. In current law, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) does not provide grants for school districts where student transportation costs are associated with alternate modes, which includes public transportation.

House Bill 2693-A allows the ODE to award grants for school districts where student transportation costs and costs associated with alternate modes of transportation, including public transit for grades 9 through 12, were not reimbursed.