

HB 4051 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

Action Date: 02/12/18

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

Vote: 9-0-0-0

Yeas: 9 - Doherty, Evans, Hernandez, McLain, Parrish, Sollman, Sprenger, Whisnant, Wilson

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates fourteen-member task force on rural education (Task Force). Establishes membership to include one member from the majority and minority party of both the House and Senate; one representative from the Oregon Department of Education, community college, and public university; and seven teachers and administrators from school districts or education service districts. Requires one of the seven teachers specialize in special education and related services, and another serve students in English Language Learner programs. Requires the Task Force review data and research related to student outcomes in rural schools. Requires the Task Force assess the impact of current state policy and laws on rural schools. Requires Task Force make recommendations for state policy changes to support rural schools to address chronic absenteeism, graduation rates, student mobility, serving underrepresented students, and advancing post-secondary education. Requires report by September 15, 2018 to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to education. Repeals Task Force on December 31, 2018. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Interest in rural education and lack of data surrounding rural schools in Oregon
- Fiscal impact of task force
- Interest in student participation on task force

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Requires one member on the Task Force be a teacher specializing in special education and related services. Requires one member be a teacher serving students in English Language Learner programs.

BACKGROUND:

The Chalkboard Project partnered with ECONorthwest on a report titled: "Rural Education in Oregon: Overcoming the Challenges of Income and Distance." The study recommended that a rural education agenda should: (1) mitigate the role household income plays in student achievement; (2) identify factors that drive higher rates of chronic absenteeism; and (3) seek to overcome the role distance plays in college accessibility.

House Bill 4051-A establishes a task force to assess the impact of current state policy and laws on rural schools and make recommendations for state policy changes.