

SB 489 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 02/13/19

Action: Do pass and refer to Judiciary by prior reference.

Vote: 4-0-1-0

Yeas: 4 - Gelser, Hass, Thomsen, Wagner

Exc: 1 - Heard

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/6, 2/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Encourages school districts to collaborate and enter into agreements with law enforcement and social media providers to share online content to help school districts respond to cyberbullying, while protecting student privacy. Requires the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to conduct a study to identify best practices for collaboration between school districts, law enforcement, and social media providers on cyberbullying. Establishes criteria for identifying best practices. Requires ODE to submit a report on the study results to the interim committee on education no later than September 15, 2020. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Mental health needs in schools
- Bullying prevention programs
- Effects of participating in anti-bullying programs
- Suicide prevention
- Role of expulsions in bullying prevention
- Social media issues
- Importance of teaching social and emotional skills to young children

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law defines cyberbullying as the use of any electronic communication device to harass, intimidate, or bully. Under current law, school districts must adopt policies on prohibiting and responding to cyberbullying and provide anti-cyberbullying training to students and staff. In addition, Oregon law encourages school districts to work with students, parents, law enforcement, and other partners to develop programs to address cyberbullying. Senate Bill 489 encourages school districts to collaborate with social media providers to work on cyberbullying issues, including developing agreements with school districts on how to disclose online content related to incidences of cyberbullying.