HB 2956   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Family Supports

Prepared By:	Zena Rockowitz, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates:	3/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Early Learning Division (ELD) to conduct an evaluation and submit a report of early learning hubs each odd-numbered year. Requires additional evaluation and report March 2018. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: *Minimal fiscal impact, but no statement issued*

REVENUE: *No revenue impact*

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Early Learning Council (ELC) is the governing body that oversees Oregon's early learning system to ensure that children are raised in stable families and enter to school ready to learn. The ELC was created by Senate Bill 909 in 2011 and was further directed through House Bill 4165 in 2012.

In 2013, House Bill 2013 authorized ELC to create sixteen regional, community-based Early Learning Hub (Hubs). Hubs have three goals: create an early learning system, which is aligned, coordinated, and family centered; ensure children are ready for school; and ensure young children live in families that are healthy, stable and attached. Hubs take different forms based on regional needs, resources and values. The Hubs are primarily responsible for developing a vision and strategic agenda, pursuing collaborative initiatives and alignment with partners, engaging parents, coordinating services, data sharing and evaluating progress. The 2015 Early Learning Hub Legislative Report explains that Hub contracts were executed between 2014 and 2015. During this time, the Hubs were in the start-up phase.

Presently, ELC must conduct an evaluation of the Hubs and submit a report by February 1, 2019. ELC assesses the Hubs with respect to creating an aligned, coordinated and family-centered system of early learning services; increasing coordination among entities; and increasing focus on outcomes and improving outcomes. The evaluation must assess governance structure, funding mechanisms, and compilation of data.