

HB 2358 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Student Success

Meeting Dates: 2/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Oregon County Assistance Fund (Fund). Directs Department of Revenue to make grants from the Fund in amounts not to exceed \$150,000 to counties seeking to consolidate or share services. Specifies counties receiving this grant must have received payments from the Secure Rural Schools Program beginning July 1, 2008 in an amount that was greater than 30 percent of the total property taxes imposed on that county in that year. Sunsets the Fund on July 1, 2028. Effective on the 91st day after sine die.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The federal Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program provided assistance to rural counties and school districts affected by the decline in revenue from timber harvests on federal lands. Historically, rural communities and schools have relied on a share of receipts from timber harvests to supplement local funding for education services and roads. During the 1980s, forest management practices changed substantially, diminishing the revenue-generating activity permitted. The resulting steep decline in timber sales decreased the revenues that rural counties and school districts received from forest management activities. The SRS program expired in September 2015.