

HB 2940 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Student Success

Meeting Dates: 3/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes pilot program under Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to increase number of public school students who are served by school social workers. Directs ODE to distribute money to districts to hire new social workers, increase hours of social workers, or enable personnel to earn school social worker license. Allows district to participate in pilot program if district submits annual application demonstrating use of grant moneys to increase students served by school social workers. Establishes annual reporting requirements for school districts. Requires ODE submit annual report no later than October 15 of each year to the Legislative Assembly. Repeals program on June 30, 2024. Allocates \$20,000,000 out of General Fund beginning July 1, 2019. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

School social workers are trained mental health professional who provide services for children's social, emotional and life adjustments. They provide direct and indirect services to students, families, and school personal to promote and support students' academic and social success.

HB 2940 establishes a pilot program to increase the number of public school students served by school social workers. This grant program is administered by the Oregon Department of Education to provide districts money to hire new social workers, increase hours of social workers, or enable personnel to earn school social worker license. It appropriates \$20,000,000 out of the General Fund on July 1, 2019 and sunsets on June 30, 2024.