

HB 2191 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 4/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands reasons for excused absences to include mental or behavior health of a student. Prohibits school districts from reducing grades or denying credits based on excused absences provided by ORS 339.065. First applies to 2019-2020 school year. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law requires enrolled students to regularly attend their public school. Irregular attendance is considered as eight unexcused, one-half day absences in any four-week school period. Oregon law permits a principal or teacher to excuse an absence for sickness of the student, sickness of a family member, emergency, or other reasons if advanced arrangements are made. It is reported that some schools do not consider mental illness as a "sickness of the student" for purposes of excused absences. House Bill 2191 allows mental or behavioral health issues to be considered excused school absences.