

HB 2025 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Student Success

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands Oregon prekindergarten program to serve children from prenatal through five years of age. Modifies role of Early Learning Hubs (Hubs). Establishes Preschool Promise Program. Establishes coordination among local entities, including Hubs, resource and referral entities, federal Head Start programs, community based organizations, and other entities identified by Early Learning Division (ELD). Allows Early Learning Division (ELD) to identify local entities to serve as preschool provider or fiscal agent for multiple preschool providers. Requires Hubs to complete community plan every two years to identify populations of children and families to enroll and access preschool programs. Requires Hubs annually coordinate and collaborate with preschool providers for preschool programs. Removes responsibility of Hubs to apply for state funding, coordinate local planning, and enter into contracts with local providers. Requires that Oregon prekindergartens provide minimum salaries established by Early Learning Council. Establishes scholarship and grant program jointly administered by Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) and ELD to ensure there are highly qualified early childhood care and education professionals in Oregon. Requires scholarships cover the cost of tuition, fees, and materials to participate in early childhood care or education degree programs. Allows HECC and ELD to approve degrees for scholarship award, and establishes rules for program administration. Determines scholarship eligibility guidelines. Allows for prioritizing scholarships for persons currently enrolled in field of early childhood care or education. Allows HECC and Early Learning Council to adopt rules to implement scholarship program. Establishes one-time grants for institutions of higher education to develop high-quality degree programs for early childhood professionals. Transfers current Preschool Promise reporting requirements from Superintendent of Public Instruction to ELD.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Number of children enrolled in preschool program and number of children in need of Head Start
- Interest in amending the bill to reflect current practice and scope of agency

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon's Preschool Promise program is a publicly-funded preschool system available to children living at 200% of the poverty level or below. It is offered through nine different Early Learning Hub (Hub) regions around the state. The Hubs develop and implement a strategic vision and work plan to achieve the following three goals: (1) create an aligned, coordinated, and family-centered system; (2) ensure children entering school are ready to succeed; and (3) create healthy, stable, and attached families.

House Bill 2025 A expands the the Oregon prekindergarten program, which had previously served children three and four years of age, to now serve children from prenatal through five years of age. It modifies the role of the Hubs, establishes the Preschool Promise Program, and requires the Early Learning Division to identify coordinating entities. It requires the Hubs to complete a community plan every two years to identify populations of children and families to enroll and access preschool programs. It establishes a scholarship and grant program jointly administered by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) and Early Learning Division (ELD) to

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ensure there are highly qualified early childhood care and education professionals in Oregon. It transfers the current Preschool Promise program reporting requirements from the Superintendent of Public Instruction to the ELD.

PRELIMINARY