

HB 2327 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

Action Date: 03/25/19

Action: Do pass and be referred to Student Success by prior reference

Vote: 7-2-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Alonso Leon, Doherty, Helt, Hernandez, Neron, Reardon, Sollman

Nays: 2 - Reschke, Wallan

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Alethia Miller, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/6, 3/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) establish and maintain Statewide School Safety and Prevention System (System). Requires System provide assistance to school districts and education service districts in decreasing acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and acts of cyberbullying through the implementation of effective prevention programs. Defines scope of prevention programs. Requires System provide assistance to districts in decreasing suicidal behavior through prevention programs and student wellness programs focusing on intervention by prevention specialists. Defines work of prevention specialists. Requires System provide assistance to districts in implementing a multidisciplinary student safety assessment system to identify and assess students presenting risk for violence to others. Creates multidisciplinary school safety assessment teams (teams) assessing students engaged in violence; defines charge of teams. Requires System promote and use statewide school safety tip line. Establishes System support with school safety and prevention specialists. Allows agencies to adopt rules required to implement the System. Appropriates \$3,870,000 out of the General Fund for establishment and maintenance of System. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Clarifying need for staffing in order to create successful statewide safety system
- Work of task force in developing statewide safety system plan

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Task Force on School Safety (Task Force) was created by HB 4087 (2014) with representatives from police, fire, school administration, teachers, school boards, service districts, policy advisors, and legislators. The Task Force came up with a four-point plan to increase safety in schools. The plan included implementing a statewide student threat assessment system, that would support all school districts in Oregon and assist in identifying potential risk. The proposed system is based on a two-tiered approach for assessing youth risk. Level 1 uses a school-based assessment which addresses threats of harm from students. Level 2 uses a community-based assessment which is for higher risk situations that require investigation.

House Bill 2327 would require the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) establish and maintain the Statewide School Safety and Prevention System (System). It requires the System provide assistance to school districts and education service districts in decreasing acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and acts of cyberbullying through the implementation of effective prevention programs.