

HB 2514 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Hass

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 05/13/19

Action: Do pass the A-Eng bill.

Vote: 3-0-0-2

Yeas: 3 - Gelsler, Hass, Wagner

Abs: 2 - Heard, Thomsen

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Tamara Dykeman, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/8, 5/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires any hearing conducted by a district school board or its hearings officer to be held in executive session or privately if hearing involves confidential student records. Provides exception if student, parent, or guardian requests a public hearing.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Technical fix to existing statute
- Student privacy concerns
- Access to hearings
- Federal and state law conflict
- Ability of school districts to comply with conflicting state and federal law when conducting hearings

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 332.061 requires school boards to conduct a hearing in an executive session or a hearings officer to conduct a hearing privately if the hearing involves expulsion of a minor student or matters pertaining to, or examination of, confidential medical records of a student, unless a public hearing is requested by the student, parent, or guardian. House Bill 2514 A expands this requirement to any confidential student records, not just medical records. This change aligns state law with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).