HB 2025 A   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Meek

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Action Date:	06/14/19
Action:	Do Pass the A-Eng bill.
House Vote	
Yeas:	8 - Gomberg, Holvey, McLain, Nosse, Piluso, Rayfield, Smith G, Stark
Exc:	1 - McLane
Senate Vote	
Yeas:	11 - Beyer, Frederick, Girod, Hansell, Heard, Johnson, Manning Jr, Roblan, Steiner Hayward, Thomsen, Wagner
Exc:	1 - Baertschiger Jr
Fiscal:	Fiscal impact issued
Revenue:	No revenue impact
Prepared By:	Tim Walker, Budget Analyst
Meeting Dates:	6/11, 6/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies Oregon prekindergarten program to serve children from three and four years of age, to prenatal through five years of age. Modifies role of Early Learning Hubs (Hubs) under 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 Hubs to serve as preschool provider or fiscal agent for multiple preschool providers. Requires Hubs to complete community plan to identify populations of children and families to enroll and access preschool programs once every two years. Requires Hubs annually coordinate and collaborate with preschool providers for preschool programs. Clarifies current practice requiring teaching assistants meet minimum salary requirements 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 scholarship 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; (3) create healthy, stable, and attached families.

The measure modifies the Oregon prekindergarten program to serve children from three and four years of age, to prenatal through five years of age. It modifies the role of the Hub under Preschool Promise Program to reflect current practice and identifies coordinating among entities. It requires the Hubs complete a community plan to identify populations of children and families to enroll and access preschool programs once every two years. It establishes a scholarship and grant program jointly administered by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) and Early Learning Division (ELD) to 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.