

House Bill 2604

Sponsored by Representative NATHANSON, Senator GELSER; Representatives DOHERTY, EVANS, HERNANDEZ, MCLAIN, NERON, Senators DEMBROW, MANNING JR, ROBLAN (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Directs Department of Education to award grants to school districts to support safe schools by funding programs related to bullying prevention and youth empowerment.

Directs department to present statewide conference on bullying prevention and youth empowerment. Allows department to enter into contract with nonprofit organization to administer conference.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to safe schools; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. Section 2 of this 2019 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 327.**

5 **SECTION 2. (1) In addition to those moneys distributed through the State School Fund,**
6 **the Department of Education shall award grants to school districts to support safe schools**
7 **by funding programs related to bullying prevention and youth empowerment.**

8 **(2) Any school district may apply for a grant under this section if the school district has**
9 **a partnership with a community-based entity to provide a program described in subsection**

10 **(3) of this section.**

11 **(3)(a) Grants shall be distributed under this section based on a competitive process that**
12 **evaluates whether the program for which the school district seeks funding:**

13 **(A) Creates safe schools by focusing on bullying prevention and youth empowerment;**

14 **(B) Has proven results in raising student self-esteem, decreasing peer victimization and**
15 **improving social support among peers;**

16 **(C) Has the following four components:**

17 **(i) Classroom presentations for all youth;**

18 **(ii) Empowerment groups for youth;**

19 **(iii) School staff training; and**

20 **(iv) Parent education.**

21 **(b) In addition to the evaluation made under paragraph (a) of this subsection, the de-**
22 **partment shall give priority to school districts:**

23 **(A) Based on geographic equity; and**

24 **(B) For programs that target middle school students.**

25 **SECTION 3. (1) Each biennium, the Department of Education shall present a statewide**
26 **conference on bullying prevention and youth empowerment. The department may enter into**
27 **a contract with a nonprofit organization to administer the conference.**

28 **(2) School districts are urged to encourage schools with any grade from grade 6 through**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **12 to ensure that at least one representative of the school attend the conference.**

2 **(3) The conference presented as required under this section shall:**

3 **(a) Focus on communicating best and emerging practices in bullying prevention and**
4 **youth empowerment; and**

5 **(b) Have significant student and educator involvement in the planning and content of the**
6 **conference.**

7 **SECTION 4. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-**
8 **ated to the Department of Education, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, out of the**
9 **General Fund, the amount of \$6,000,000, which shall be expended for grants distributed as**
10 **provided by section 2 of this 2019 Act.**

11 **SECTION 5. This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
12 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect**
13 **July 1, 2019.**

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