

HB 2001 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines diverse and diversity ratio. Modifies definitions of competence and merit. Requires school districts facing budgetary constraints to prioritize teachers for retention based on seniority, unless a teacher being retained has more merit and the retention of the teacher maintains the school district's diversity ratio. Applies to contracts entered into on or after the measure's passage. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, ORS 342.934 requires school districts to prioritize the retention of its most senior teachers in the event of layoffs, and allows a district to retain a teacher with less experience only if it can determine that the teacher being retained is more competent or has more merit. House Bill 2001 requires districts to retain teachers that have more merit and would maintain the district's diversity ratio in the event of layoffs, and defines diversity ratio as the ratio of teachers that are Black, Hispanic, Asian or Pacific Islander, Native American, or non-native English speakers to students that share those characteristics.