

HB 2536 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/16, 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires school to offer breakfast, lunch, or both at no charge to students if school or district meets eligibility requirements of special provisions of US Department of Agriculture's National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program under certain circumstances. If school or district does not offer reimbursable meals, requires district to ensure that each school offers meals at no charge to qualifying students. Provides for reimbursement by Department of Education. Modifies reimbursement rates. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2021.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- School nutrition programs
- Changes in federal law
- Community eligibility provision

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Special Provisions for the National School Lunch Program encompass both the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) and Provision 2. CEP allows schools and districts with high percentages of eligible children to offer meals at no charge to all children in the school without collecting applications from individual families. Provision 2 reduces the required applications to once every four years, and simplifies meal counting and claiming procedures for school districts. House Bill 2536 requires schools to offer meals at no charge if they meet the eligibility requirements established by the US Department of Agriculture, requires the Oregon Department of Education to reimburse districts, and modifies reimbursement rates.