

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 580 A

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Amends definition of "employment relations" to include class size and caseload limits as mandatory collective bargaining subjects for school districts.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

School Districts, Department of Education (ODE)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate at this time - See explanatory analysis.

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

See Analysis.

Analysis: The measure amends the definition of "employment relations" to include class size and caseload limits as mandatory collective bargaining subjects for school districts. The -4 amendment restricts when class size can be included in the definition of "employment relations" to those schools qualifying for federal Title I funding. Qualifying for Title I is based on individual schools so districts may have some Title I schools while others are not. ODE states that currently, 744 of the total 1200 schools qualify as Title I schools in Oregon.

School districts indicate that making class size and caseload limits could result in smaller class sizes which in turn would require hiring more teachers -- potentially create physical class space problems and schedule issues. One large School District indicated that lowering class sizes by one student may require the recruitment, hiring, and training of an additional 60 licensed staff across a range of content areas. Because the outcomes of future bargaining are unknown, the fiscal impact of this measure on School Districts is indeterminate.

There is no fiscal impact on the Oregon Department of Education's operations.