

HB 2281 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 1/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires district school boards to designate a civil rights coordinator for the school district. Imposes sanctions, established by the State Board of Education, on public elementary or secondary schools and public charter schools found to be in noncompliance.

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:

This bill is at the request of the Oregon Department of Education.

School districts must comply with federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, and national origin (Title VI), sex (Title IX), and disability (ADA/Section 504), and all Oregon districts have a coordinator or coordinators designated for that purpose. House Bill 2281 further requires the designation of a civil rights coordinator that is responsible for enforcing state nondiscrimination laws and coordinating investigations, and extends the requirement to public charter schools. ORS 659.850 defines discrimination prohibited in education as "any act that unreasonably differentiates treatment, intended or unintended, or any act that is fair in form but discriminatory in operation, either of which is based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, marital status, age or disability." The mandatory civil rights coordinator position proposed in HB 2281 is similar to one that exists in Washington administrative rule (WAC 392-190-060).

HB 2281 requires both public school districts and public charter schools to designate a civil rights coordinator to investigate complaints of discrimination under state and federal law.