

SB 276 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 1/31, 2/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Increases amount for reimbursements for vision screening from \$3.20 to \$4.00. Applies increase to vision screenings that take place on or after July 1, 2023. Appropriates \$2 million to the Department of Education for the Vision Health Account. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of vision testing
- Benefits to students
- Costs associated with testing programs

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation provides vision screenings in schools throughout Oregon. Currently, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) sends money to school districts for these screenings, and districts reimburse the providers. Senate Bill 222 (2021) allowed ODE to reimburse providers directly. Senate Bill 276 increases the amount reimbursed for each screening.