

HB 2504 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Prepared By: Matthew Perreault, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Early Learning Council (ELC), in consultation with Office of Child Care and Oregon Center for Career Development in Childhood Care and Education, to adopt rules that result in reduced barriers for international early childhood professionals to enter the workforce. Prescribes minimum standards for rules that would simplify and eliminate administrative inefficiencies in the early childhood workforce registry for the benefit of international early childhood professionals.

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:

Oregon law directs the Early Learning Division (after July 1, 2023, the Department of Early Learning and Care), in partnership with the Early Learning Council and the Educator Advancement Council, to develop and implement a system of professional development that provides early childhood professionals with career pathways, mentorship, and coaching opportunities. As part of this system, the Division maintains the [Oregon Registry](#), a centralized, statewide professional recognition database that provides educational guidelines and records individual progress on training, education, and professional development. The system is maintained by the [Oregon Center for Career Development in Childhood Care and Education](#) at Portland State University's College of Education.

According to a [2019 report](#) by Oregon State University's College of Public Health and Human Sciences, roughly one quarter of early childhood professionals in Oregon have some college education or hold a degree from a foreign higher education institution. That same report found that early childhood professionals whose first language is not English are less likely to participate in the Oregon Registry professional development system.

House Bill 2504 directs the Early Learning Council to develop administrative rules that reduce barriers for international early childhood professionals to enter the workforce and prescribes minimum standards to streamline administrative processes.