

HB 2618 -1, -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 1/30, 2/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to identify methodology for determining appropriate number of students to be assigned to school-based speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists. Requires ODE to report to the legislature by September 15, 2023. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Administrative work as part of workload
- Caseloads/workloads contributing to workforce recruitment and retention issues

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces "caseload" with "workload."

-3 Replaces the measure. Requires Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to identify best methodology of determining appropriate workload for school-based speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists. Requires methodology to consider number of students eligible for services, level of students' need, recommended frequency of visits, number of schools served, and time spent on paperwork and meetings for students' individualized education programs. Requires ODE to consider workload metrics used in other states. Requires ODE to develop or recommend adoption of workload metric for use in Oregon, and to submit report to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2023.

BACKGROUND:

Past bills to limit caseloads include House Bill 3263 (2017) and House Bill 2985 (2019), which would have required the State Board of Education to adopt rules allowing occupational therapists (OTs) to supervise a team of occupational therapy assistants (OTAs) to provide services to children with individualized education plans (IEPs) and limiting the workloads of OTs and OTAs providing such services.

Caseload is the number of cases or students assigned to an employee, while workload is a measurement of the amount of work required to successfully manage assigned cases with consideration for unique supports and services each child requires.

House Bill 2618 requires the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to identify a methodology for determining the appropriate caseloads of school-based speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists, and to report its findings to the legislature by September 15, 2023. The proposed -3 amendment replaces the measure and requires ODE to study and to develop or recommend adoption of a workload metric for school-based speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists for use in Oregon.