

SB 414 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 2/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires school districts to have ventilation verification assessments performed by qualified testing personnel every five years. Establishes program requirements for assessments. Requires school districts to place carbon dioxide monitor in every classroom. Establishes requirements for carbon dioxide monitors. Requires that qualified testing personnel assess carbon dioxide monitors. Establishes requirements for adjusting classroom ventilation. Establishes recordkeeping requirements. Allows Oregon Department of Education to adopt rules. Requires school districts to obtain HVAC assessment report done by qualified testing personnel. Establishes content and review requirements for reports. Requires school districts to perform adjustments, repairs, or upgrades recommended by mechanical engineer. Establishes requirements for school district contractors. Requires school districts to submit HVAC verification reports to Oregon Department of Education. Establishes content requirements for report. Requires ODE to maintain reports for at least five years and make reports available to public. Establishes School Ventilation Fund.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Classroom ventilation gained national prominence as an issue during the COVID-19 pandemic. Effective ventilation can, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, minimize viral transmissions in schools. Research conducted by [The Oregonian/OregonLive in May, 2022](#) found that one-quarter of classrooms in Portland Public Schools did not meet minimum recommendations for ventilation established by Harvard University and other organizations concerned with air quality.

Senate Bill 414 establishes statewide requirements for school ventilation and air quality monitoring and reporting.