

SB 658 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to establish a pilot program to provide additional funding to school districts with a significant population of homeless students. Requires grants made from Statewide Education Initiatives Account for direct assistance and supports to homeless students, including transportation. Establishes grant distribution formula. Requires ODE to select seven school districts to participate in pilot program. Establishes selection and reporting requirements. Allows ODE to provide technical assistance, including identifying locations to use as shelters. Requires annual report to Legislative Assembly by November 1. Pilot program becomes operative July 1, 2023 and repeals July 1, 2026. Requires ODE and Department of Human Services (DHS) to submit report to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2026 on the education of homeless students in Oregon. Establishes required content for report. Adds funding for homeless students to allowable uses of Statewide Education Initiatives Account through July 1, 2026. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Beginning in 1987, Congress enacted a series of laws to protect the rights of homeless students. Most recently, the education portion of the McKinney-Vento legislation was reauthorized by Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act in 2015. The federal government provides funding for services to homeless students under the McKinney-Vento Act, which requires states to distribute 75 percent of their annual McKinney-Vento allocation to local school districts in subgrants. In Oregon, the Student Success Act named homeless students as one of the target populations for reducing disparities.

Senate Bill 685 establishes a pilot grant program for seven districts to support homeless students and establishes a related reporting requirement.