SB 238 A   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

Prepared By:	Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates:	4/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Health Authority, State Board of Education, and Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission to collaborate on developing curricula supplements related to dangers of synthetic opioids and laws that provide protections for those who report drug or alcohol use or who seek treatment for themselves or others. Requires school districts to implement curricular supplements. Becomes operative July 1, 2024, but authorizes agencies to act earlier. Requires that supplements be available for the 2024-2025 school year.

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

SENATE VOTE: Passed. Ayes, 28; Nays, 1; Excused, 1.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:
- Impact of opioid epidemic
- Provisions of measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Opioids are a broad group of drugs that target the body's opioid receptors to provide relief from pain. Opioid drugs can be derived from the poppy plant (e.g., morphine) or synthesized in a laboratory (e.g., fentanyl). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), since 1999 over 932,000 people have died from a drug overdose with over 75 percent of those deaths involving an opioid. This has resulted in a federal public health emergency declaration that has remained in place since October 2017. In Oregon, opioid overdose deaths have steadily increased in recent years, with 280 deaths in 2019, 472 deaths in 2020, and 745 deaths in 2021. Opioid antagonist medications, such as naloxone, can reverse opioid overdoses. According to the CDC, only one naloxone prescription is dispensed for every 70 high-dose opioid prescriptions, with rural counties three times more likely to be ranked as low dispensing of naloxone as metropolitan areas.

Senate Bill 238 A requires state agencies to develop curricular materials related to the dangers of synthetic opioids and processes for safely reporting substance use and seeking treatment.