

## HB 2504 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Education

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**Prepared By:** Ellen O'Brien, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 4/27, 5/11

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Department of Early Learning and Care to adopt standards and processes to reduce barriers for international early childhood professionals to enter early learning workforce in Oregon. Specifies minimum requirements for standards and processes.

*FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact*

*REVENUE: No revenue impact*

*HOUSE VOTE: Ayes, 44; Nays, 9; Excused, 5; Excused for Business of the House, 2*

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Barriers to certification for bilingual professionals
- Value of culturally responsive child care

#### 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 A directs the Department of Early Learning and Care to develop standards and processes that reduce barriers for international early childhood professionals to enter the workforce and prescribes minimum standards to streamline those standards and processes.