

**HB 2618 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Rep. McLain

**House Committee On Education**

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**Action Date:** 02/20/23

**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 7-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 7 - Cramer, Hudson, McIntire, Neron, Nguyen H, Valderrama, Wright

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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

**Meeting Dates:** 1/30, 2/20

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to identify best methodology for 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. 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:**

Replaces the measure.

**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 limiting the workloads of occupational therapists (OTs) and occupational therapy assistants (OTAs), and allowing an OT to supervise a team of OTAs to provide services to children with individualized education plans (IEPs).

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 A requires the Oregon Department of Education (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.