

HB 2257 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

Action Date: 02/27/23

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.
(Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 6-0-1-0

Yeas: 6 - Hudson, McIntire, Neron, Nguyen H, Valderrama, Wright

Exc: 1 - Cramer

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 1/25, 2/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes School Safety Construction Fund in State Treasury. Establishes requirements for Fund and allowable uses for school district, education service district, Oregon School for the Deaf, and charter school grants. Appropriates unspecified moneys from General Fund to the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to implement provision. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of measure
- Need for more funding for school construction and safety projects

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Removes provisions relating to corporate kicker. Adds sprinkler systems. Removes requirement that ODE prioritize projects for which district has unsuccessfully sought other funding. Removes audit requirement. Adds eligibility for education service districts, Oregon School for the Deaf, and school districts that apply on behalf of charter schools. Adds blank appropriation.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching (OSCIM) program provides matching grants to districts that pass a local bond measure. The program attempts to encourage local communities to invest in their own district's school facilities. Districts know ahead of the election what the state commitment will be, so community members can make an informed decision on their local bond measure.

The OSCIM program requires districts to submit a facilities assessment and a long-range plan. Grants are available to help districts with these requirements through the technical assistance program (TAP). Under current law, districts are awarded grants based either on their position on the priority list or based on when they submit their grant application. Current grants are up to \$4 million for most districts, with some districts receiving up to \$8 million. For the 2021-2023 biennium, a total of over \$142 million was available to districts through the OSCIM grant program.

House Bill 2257 A creates a new fund for school safety construction projects.