

HB 2726 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Early Childhood and Human Services

Action Date: 03/22/23

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

Vote: 10-0-0-0

Yeas: 10 - Andersen, Cramer, Elmer, Hartman, Hieb, Nelson, Neron, Nguyen H, Reynolds, Scharf

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Matthew Perreault, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/27, 3/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Southern Oregon Early Learning Services (SOELS) to administer pilot program in Jackson and Josephine Counties that would coordinate resources and supports available to low-income pregnant individuals and families with young children. Appropriates \$25 million General Fund to Early Learning Division (ELD) for upcoming biennium for SOELS to administer pilot program. Directs SOELS to deposit \$2 million into Early Childhood Support Fund for distribution to organizations that provide direct financial assistance and \$2 million into Child Care Workforce Fund for distribution to child care providers for facility improvement and workforce compensation. Requires ELD to report on program outcomes to interim legislative committees by September 15, 2024. Sunsets January 2, 2029. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Risk factors affecting development of young children
- Existing framework for pilot project in the region
- Relationship with Head Start and other federal programs
- Methods for identifying and benchmarking children in need of services
- Partner organizations involved in project
- Background on program development
- Interaction with school district budgets

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Reduces allocations to Early Childhood Support Fund to \$2 million and Child Care Workforce Fund to \$2 million. Adds community-based organizations to eligible recipients of moneys from Early Childhood Support Fund.

BACKGROUND:

Early Learning Hubs were created when the Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 2013 (2013), which directed the Early Learning Council to establish a statewide system of regional partnerships that would provide wraparound supports to families with young children. Early Learning Hubs are responsible for coordinating early learning services in the region, including child care, education, human services, and public health, in the interest of promoting school readiness for young children. Oregon has 16 regional Early Learning Hubs covering every region of the state, plus the Tribal Early Learning Hub for tribal communities that was created by House Bill 2055 (2021). A public or private entity, such as a city, county, school district, education service district, higher education institution, or nonprofit organization, may apply to be designated by the Early Learning Council as the Early Learning Hub for a given region. For example, Southern Oregon Early Learning Services, the Early Learning Hub for Jackson and Josephine Counties, is organized by Southern Oregon Education Service District.

HB 2726 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Bill 2726 A directs Southern Oregon Early Learning Services to administer a pilot program in Jackson and Josephine Counties that would coordinate resources and supports that are available to low-income pregnant individuals and families with young children. The measure appropriates \$25 million to carry out the program and directs the Early Learning Division to report to legislative committees on program outcomes.