

SB 658 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 04/04/23

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

Vote: 6-1-0-0

Yeas: 6 - Anderson, Dembrow, Frederick, Gelsner Blouin, President Wagner, Weber

Nays: 1 - Robinson

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/28, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to establish a pilot program to provide additional funding to school districts with a significant population of homeless students. Allows districts to apply for grants as consortia or in partnership with education service districts, local governments, nonprofit organizations, or federally recognized tribes. Requires grants made from Statewide Education Initiatives Account for direct assistance and supports to homeless students, including transportation. Establishes grant distribution formula. Establishes selection and reporting requirements. Allows ODE to provide technical assistance, including identifying locations to use as shelters. Becomes operative July 1, 2024. Requires ODE and Department of Human Services (DHS) to submit report to Legislative Assembly by November 1, 2024 and again by November 1, 2025 on uses of funds. Requires ODE, in collaboration with DHS, to report to Legislative Assembly on demographics and educational outcomes for homeless students by September 15, 2026. Establishes required contents for reports. Establishes statewide plan and associated grant program related to education of homeless students. Adds funding for homeless students to allowable uses of Statewide Education Initiatives Account. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Needs of homeless students
- Educational outcomes for homeless students

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Beginning in 1987, Congress enacted a series of laws to protect the rights of homeless students. Most recently, the education portion of the federal McKinney-Vento Act was reauthorized by Title IX, Part A of the Every Student Succeeds Act in 2015. The federal government provides funding for services to homeless students under the McKinney-Vento Act, which requires states to distribute 75 percent of their annual McKinney-Vento allocation to local school districts in subgrants. In Oregon, HB 3427 (2019), the Student Success Act, named homeless students as one of the target populations for reducing disparities.

Senate Bill 685 A establishes a pilot grant program to support homeless students, establishes a related reporting requirement, and establishes a statewide plan for homeless students.