

HB 3031 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Neron

House Committee On Rules

Action Date: 05/16/23
Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)
Vote: 4-3-0-0
Yeas: 4 - Fahey, Kropf, Nosse, Valderrama
Nays: 3 - Breese-Iverson, Scharf, Wallan
Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Ellen O'Brien
Meeting Dates: 5/4, 5/11, 5/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires school district to expend federal and state funds made available for indoor heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) infrastructure improvements toward carrying out provisions of measure. Exempts school districts from carrying out provisions until such funds are expended. Requires school districts to have ventilation verification assessments performed by qualified testing personnel once every five years. Establishes program requirements for assessments. Requires school districts to place carbon dioxide monitor in every classroom and to have carbon dioxide monitors assessed by qualified testing personnel. Establishes standards for carbon dioxide monitors, requirements for adjusting classroom ventilation, and requirements for recordkeeping. Requires school districts to obtain report on ventilation and carbon dioxide monitor assessments from qualified testing personnel and to submit report to mechanical engineer for review. Requires school districts to perform adjustments, repairs, upgrades, or replacements recommended by mechanical engineer. Establishes apprenticeship, safety, and benefit and wage requirements for school district contractors carrying out indoor HVAC infrastructure improvements. Requires school districts to submit report to Oregon Department of Education (ODE) on indoor HVAC infrastructure improvements made. Requires ODE to maintain reports for at least five years. Establishes that such reports are public record. Allows ODE to adopt rules to carry out measure.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of amendment
- Grant funding available to school districts
- Potential reduction in school operating costs
- Ability for school districts to meet labor standards
- Lack of obligation to carry out provisions without funding
- Assistance for small districts to apply for grant funding

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Classroom ventilation gained national prominence as an issue during the COVID-19 pandemic. Effective ventilation can, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, minimize viral transmission in schools. Research conducted by [The Oregonian/OregonLive in May 2022](#) found that one-quarter of classrooms in Portland Public Schools did not meet minimum recommendations for ventilation established by Harvard University and other organizations concerned with air quality. A [2021 report by the American Society of Civil Engineers](#) found that nationally, 53 percent of public school districts needed to update or replace multiple building systems, including HVAC systems. The federal [Renew America's Schools](#) grant program made \$500 million available to K-12 districts to perform energy improvements. The initial \$80 million round of funding closed in April 2023.

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House Bill 3031 A requires school districts that receive federal or state funding for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) improvements to use that funding to assess ventilation systems, place and assess carbon dioxide monitors in every classroom, and submit a report on ventilation and carbon dioxide monitor assessments to a mechanical engineer for review. The measure further requires school districts to carry out improvements recommended by the reviewing engineer, establishes labor requirements for contractors making those improvements, and requires school districts to submit a report to the Oregon Department of Education on the improvements made.