



Legislative Fiscal Office
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Bill Title: Relating to tribal early learning services.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Department of Early Learning and Care, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, Confederated Tribes of Siletz, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians, Department of Human Services, Klamath Tribes, Burns Paiute Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation, Coquille Indian Tribe, Department of Education, Higher Education Coordinating Commission, Oregon Health Authority

Summary of Fiscal Impact

Costs related to this measure may require budgetary action - see explanatory analysis.

Measure Description

The measure directs the Department of Early Learning and Care (DELIC) to develop and implement a statewide early learning and care plan (Tribal Early Learning Plan) for serving children up to eight years of age who are members of a tribal community and enrolled in early childhood care or education programs. In developing the plan, DELIC shall consult the nine federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon and state agencies with relevant experience. The measure directs DELIC to establish an 18-member Oregon Tribal Early Learning Alliance advisory committee to advise the department on the development of the plan and administration of a corresponding grant program. The grant program will award moneys to each of the nine federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon for the purpose of implementing the Tribal Early Learning Plan.

The Early Learning Council, in consultation with DELIC, shall develop rules for the administration of the grant program, including establishing eligibility criteria for grant recipients.

The measure establishes the Tribal Early Learning Fund, which is continuously appropriated to DELIC, for the purposes of carrying out the Tribal Early Learning Plan, as well as the new grant program. The measure authorizes DELIC to retain up to 5% of the moneys appropriated for deposit in the fund to provide technical assistance, professional development, infrastructure, or other support to plan children, caregivers, tribal educators, or federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon.

Fiscal Analysis

The measure replaces the Tribal Early Learning Hub with the Tribal Early Learning Plan. HB 2055 (2021) directed DELIC to establish a Tribal Early Learning Hub to coordinate early learning services provided to children through age eight who were American Indian and Alaska Natives of the nine federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon. The Tribal Early Learning Plan, established in this measure, expands services to also include families, educators, and providers of the children served under the plan.

The measure establishes the Tribal Early Learning Fund and directs DELIC to utilize the fund to establish and administer a Tribal Early Learning Plan grant program. The measure does not include an appropriation for deposit into the fund. Without funding, DELIC would be unable to establish and administer this grant program.

The 2025-27 Governor's budget includes \$5.4 million General Fund for the Tribal Early Learning Fund proposed in this measure. The Governor's recommendation will be considered as part of DELC's appropriation bill, SB 5514 (2025). Should SB 5514 capitalize the Tribal Early Learning Fund, DELC would be able to administer the proposed grant program, which would have a fiscal impact on the department. Additionally, any monies distributed from the fund would require expenditure limitation in the 2025-27 biennium.

The measure also replaces the current Tribal Advisory Committee, established by HB 2055 (2021), with the Oregon Tribal Early Learning Alliance advisory committee. DELC will be able to absorb the cost of establishing and staffing this new advisory committee using existing budgetary resources.

The measure is anticipated to have a minimal fiscal impact on the Oregon Health Authority, Department of Human Services, Oregon Department of Education, Higher Education Coordinating Commission, and the nine federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon.

Relevant Dates

The measure takes effect on January 1, 2026.