SB 450   STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

Prepared By:	Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates:	5/28, 5/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure makes November 14 of each year Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day. It declares an emergency and is effective on passage.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact
REVENUE: No revenue impact

Senate Vote: *Ayes, 29; Excused, 1*

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Ruby Nell Bridges was born to Abon and Lucille Bridges on September 8, 1954, in Tylertown, Mississippi, in the immediate wake of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision ruling racial segregation in school as unconstitutional on May 17, 1954.

The southern states were opposed to integration, and when Ruby's family relocated to New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1959, she attended a segregated kindergarten. In 1960, Ruby was one of six Black children in Louisiana to pass a test to determine whether they could attend the previously all-white William Frantz Elementary School. Of the six, Ruby was the only one who chose to attend the school that year. On November 14, 1960, she walked to William Frantz Elementary School flanked by four deputy U.S. Marshals and was the first Black child in the south to attend a previously all-white school. Ruby's walk was immortalized by Norman Rockwell in his iconic 1964 painting, *The Problem We All Live With*.

Though Ruby's life as a student continued to be fraught with blatant racism and threats of violence, she never missed a single day of school, and she has been a tireless advocate for change throughout her life. Through the Ruby Bridges Foundation, speaking engagements, and her series of children's books, she continues to strive for an end to racism.

The Salem-Keizer Safe Routes to School honors the impact Ruby Bridges has had on the United States education system through its participation in Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day, a nationwide day of dialogue for students, families, school staff, and community members to confront racism and bullying.