

SB 868 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Gelser Blouin

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 03/12/25
Action: Do pass.
Vote: 4-1-0-0
Yeas: 4 - Frederick, Gelser Blouin, Sollman, Weber
Nays: 1 - Robinson
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Chris Bechtel, LPRO Fellow
Meeting Dates: 1/27, 3/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Oregon Department of Education to develop a formula to calculate the costs of operating and administering a regional special education program, and to prepare, submit, and post online a report each even-numbered year about the differences in funding from the formula and the approved funding, the reasons for the differences in funding, and the amount of state funding needed based on the formula.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Funding barriers for regional special education programs
- Availability of the funding formula development roadmap

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, Regional Inclusive Service (RIS) programs for children with low incidence disabilities serve children ages zero to 21 who require specialized services and meet eligibility requirements. The types of disabilities that would allow a child to be eligible include hearing impairments, vision impairments, autism spectrum disorders, orthopedic impairments, deaf-blindness, and traumatic brain injury. Because the occurrence of these types of disabilities is relatively rare, school districts find it difficult to employ specialized staff in these areas.

In 2021, Senate Bill 53 required the State Board of Education to study efficient and effective funding methods in RIS programs. The [Regional Inclusive Service Senate Bill 53 Report](#) recommends that the RIS programs receive a stable revenue stream to provide adequate funding to students who experience low incidence disabilities.