

HB 2502 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Action Date: 05/07/25

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

House Vote

Yeas: 5 - Edwards, Isadore, Kropf, Mannix, Valderrama

Senate Vote

Yeas: 3 - Girod, Lieber, Prozanski

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/12, 4/30, 5/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Oregon Department of Education to award grants to approved recovery schools to offset screening costs, provide capacity for recovery services and treatment, and fund other start-up or operating costs. It establishes the Approved Recovery School Fund for purpose of awarding grants. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Correlation between youth drug experimentation and adult addiction
- Availability of drugs for youth vs. availability of addiction treatment
- Savings achieved by recovery schools

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

According to the 2022 Student Health Survey, Oregon's substance use disorder rates for youth age 12 - 17 (5.77 percent) and young adults age 18 - 25 (17.49 percent) are higher than the national rates for comparative age groups (4.08 percent and 14.59 percent, respectively). The survey also found that drug overdoses have increased for youth ages 10 - 17 and young adults ages 18 - 24, with deaths in the latter group increasing from about 40 in 2017 to 75 in 2021.

Recovery schools generally refer to secondary schools designed for students in recovery from substance use disorder or other co-occurring disorders. House Bill 2767 (2023) required the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to establish up to three recovery schools for the 2023-2025 biennium, increasing the number by up to three additional schools each biennium with a maximum of nine schools for the 2027-2029 biennium. ODE is required to report on the progress of approved recovery schools biennially, with the first report due by January 1, 2028.

House Bill 2502 A requires the Oregon Department of Education to award grants to approved recovery schools for specified costs and establishes the Approved Recovery School Fund for the purpose of awarding these grants.