

HB 4112 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/11, 2/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure raises the amount allocated to the Outdoor School Education Fund for the 2025-2027 biennium from \$48 million to \$54 million. It declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impact and educational value of outdoor school

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

State-funded outdoor school programs provide a six-day residential educational experience (or equivalent) for fifth and sixth grade students, with an emphasis on science standards and natural resources (ORS 327.390).

Senate Bill 439 (2015) directed the Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service to assist school districts and to administer a grant program for outdoor school programs.

In 2016, Oregon voters approved Measure 99, which allocated four percent of net lottery proceeds, up to a maximum of \$22 million annually (adjusted for inflation), to the Outdoor School Education Fund.

In the 2023-2025 biennium, the fund received a fixed appropriation of \$56.4 million in lieu of the formula distribution, which represented a 14 percent increase over the prior biennium level ([2023-25 Budget Highlights](#), Legislative Fiscal Office). For the current biennium, the [2025-2027 Governor's budget](#) recommended, and Senate Bill 5525 (2025) allocated, \$48 million in lottery proceeds for the Outdoor School Education Fund.