

## **HB 4149 -1, -2, -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **House Committee On Education**

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**Prepared By:** Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/9, 2/16

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure enacts requirements for the education of homeless students.

#### Detailed Summary

- Requires school district, education service district, and charter school boards to adopt policies providing for the immediate enrollment, school placement, and provision of services to homeless students. Specifies components of required policies.
- Requires school districts, education service districts, and charter schools to designate a local liaison to ensure the provision and coordination of services for homeless students.
- Requires school districts, education service districts, and charter schools to place homeless students in their schools of origin either for the duration of their homelessness, for the remainder of the school year during which they became homeless, or for the school year following the summer during which the student became homeless. Enacts exception if the school district determines that a different placement is in the student's best interest.
- Requires school districts, education service districts, and charter schools to allow student to continue attending the same school if they become no longer homeless during the school year. Enacts exception if the school district determines that a different placement is in the student's best interest.
- Enacts requirements for determination of student's best interest.
- Requires school districts, education service districts, and charter schools to provide transportation to homeless students.
- Requires governing boards to adopt a dispute resolution process relating to provision of services to homeless students. Enacts requirements related to dispute resolution, including required placement in the school in which enrollment is sought by the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth as well as transportation.
- Requires the Oregon Department of Education to designate a state coordinator responsible for overseeing the provision of education and related services to homeless students. Specifies responsibilities of the coordinator.
- Makes conforming amendments.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Codification of federal law in state law
- Needs of homeless and foster students
- Experiences of homeless students
- Federal funding
- McKinney-Vento Act
- Children and Families Commissions sunset in 2012, start of restoration in 2019

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

- 1 Modifies requirement for allowing a homeless student to continue attending their school of origin. Adds definition for school of origin for foster youth. Adds requirement that a homeless student be considered a resident of the school district where their school of origin is located if they still attend their school of origin.
- 2 Modifies requirement for allowing a homeless student to continue attending their school of origin. Allows public charter schools to coordinate with local district liaisons instead of appointing their own. Modifies transportation requirements. Adds definition for school of origin for foster youth. Adds requirement that a

homeless student be considered a resident of the school district where their school of origin is located if they still attend their school of origin.

-3 Removes charter schools from definition of school district. Modifies provisions relating to charter schools. Allows public charter schools to designate liaisons for homeless students. Modifies transportation requirements. Adds definition for school of origin for foster youth. Adds requirement that a homeless student be considered a resident of the school district where their school of origin is located if they still attend their school of origin.

**BACKGROUND:**

Originally enacted in 1987, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act is the federal law governing the educational rights of homeless students. It authorizes the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program and was most recently reauthorized in 2015.

The McKinney-Vento Act gives eligible children the right to immediate school enrollment, the right to remain in their school of origin if that is in the student's best interest, the right to receive transportation to and from the school of origin, and the right to receive support for academic success.

According to the Oregon Department of Education's [most recent statewide annual report](#), Oregon had 21,122 public school students that met the definition of homelessness under the McKinney-Vento Act in the 2024-2025 school year. This represents 3.9 percent of the total public school student population. Oregon received \$919,962.75 in federal funds to support these students in that school year. For the cohort that entered high school in the 2020-2021 school year, homeless students had a 61.3 percent four-year graduation rate.