A-Engrossed House Bill 3334

Ordered by the House April 8 Including House Amendments dated April 8

Sponsored by Representative POWER, Senator TAYLOR

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure

Directs Early Learning Division to develop plan to [coordinate provision of services to children who are in early childhood and] provide eligible children with equitable access to preschool that is high quality and that is culturally and developmentally responsive. Directs division to report on plan to appropriate interim committee of Legislative Assembly. Sunsets December 31, [2021] 2022.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

2 Relating to early childhood; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon: 3

SECTION 1. (1) The Early Learning Division shall develop a plan to provide eligible chil-4

dren of this state with equitable access to preschool that is high quality and that is culturally $\mathbf{5}$

and developmentally responsive. 6

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(2) The plan developed under this section shall: 7

(a) Provide that participation in a preschool program is voluntary; 8

- (b) Establish quality standards for publicly funded preschool programs, which may in-9 clude: 10
- (A) The daily and yearly availability of preschool programs; and 11
- (B) The requirement that preschool programs provide high quality, developmentally ap-12 13 propriate early learning that:
- (i) Reflects best practices related to preschool; 14
- (ii) Is culturally relevant; and 15
- (iii) Includes multigenerational learning experiences; 16

17 (c) Be developed in collaboration with community stakeholders, including the Early Learning Council, the State Board of Education and families from demographics that are 18

19 underrepresented in preschool programs;

20 (d) Create uniform preschool education standards across all local, state and federal publicly funded preschool programs; 21

(e) Identify eligibility requirements for children and families based on income level and 2223other demographic criteria, which shall take into account eligibility criteria for current local, state and federal publicly funded preschool programs; 24

(f) Propose an approach for equitably distributing preschool slots in phases to ensure 2526 that preschool programs are accessible across the state and for tribal communities and that

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preschool programs are provided through a mixed delivery system;
 (g) Be responsive to the scheduling needs and preferences of families; and
 (h) Include recommendations for increasing the infrastructure capacity to accommodate

an expansion in the provision of preschool programs, including the needs for facilities,
 workforce investments and local coordinated enrollment systems for families.

6 (3) The plan developed under this section may:

7 (a) Establish requirements for care before school, after school or a combination of before
8 and after school.

9 (b) Provide for the alignment and coordination of existing preschool programs, including
 10 the Oregon prekindergarten program and the Preschool Promise Program.

(4) The plan developed under this section must provide that, no later than January 1,
 2027, all children in this state eligible for preschool shall have access to preschool.

(5) The division shall report on the plan, and may include recommendations for legislation, to an appropriate interim committee of the Legislative Assembly no later than September 1, 2022.

16 SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2021 Act is repealed on December 31, 2022.

17 <u>SECTION 3.</u> This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public 18 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect 19 on its passage.

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