

# House Bill 2879

Sponsored by Representatives BARNHART, BUCKLEY; Representatives ACKERMAN, AVAKIAN, BARKER, DINGFELDER, GALIZIO, GREENLICK, HOLVEY, HUNT, MACPHERSON, MERKLEY, NOLAN, RILEY, ROBLAN, ROSENBAUM, SCHAUFLEER, SHIELDS, TOMEI, WIRTH, WITT

## 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 **as introduced**.

Directs Department of Education to determine amount necessary to provide school year of 200 days and class sizes no larger than national average. Recommends that Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly provide for public education amount determined by department, for purposes of increasing school year and reducing class sizes.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to education.

3 Whereas the Legislative Assembly has recognized the importance of public schools by enacting  
4 high standards of academic achievement; and

5 Whereas education is a defining feature of a democracy, helping to create a citizenry capable  
6 of self-government and civic engagement; and

7 Whereas public schools provide the foundation for economic success by helping to train a  
8 workforce and by fostering a positive business environment; and

9 Whereas economic recovery and development depend upon a ready workforce that possesses the  
10 skills and education necessary to handle the jobs of the 21st century; and

11 Whereas public schools provide opportunity and hope for children from all segments of society;  
12 and

13 Whereas public schools have been forced to shorten the school year, increase class sizes and  
14 eliminate programs such as athletics, art, drama and music; and

15 Whereas the Legislative Assembly should appropriate a sum of money sufficient to provide rea-  
16 sonable class sizes and a full school year; and

17 Whereas to fund public education with any less would be an abrogation of our responsibilities  
18 to our schools, our children and the future of the State of Oregon; now, therefore,

19 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

20 **SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Education shall determine the amount, in addition to**  
21 **the total amount available for distribution from the State School Fund for the biennium be-**  
22 **ginning July 1, 2005, that is necessary to provide children who attend public schools during**  
23 **the biennium beginning July 1, 2007:**

24 (a) **A school year of 200 days; and**

25 (b) **Grade-appropriate average class sizes that are equal to or smaller than national av-**  
26 **erages, as determined by the department.**

27 (2) **Prior to February 1, 2007, the department shall report to the Seventy-fourth Legisla-**  
28 **tive Assembly on the amount determined under subsection (1) of this section.**

29 (3) **The Seventy-third Legislative Assembly recommends that for the biennium beginning**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **July 1, 2007, the Seventy-fourth Legislative Assembly provide for public education the**  
2 **amount determined by the department under subsection (1) of this section for the purpose**  
3 **of providing a school year of 200 days and class sizes equal to or smaller than national av-**  
4 **erages.**

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