

House Bill 3185

Sponsored by Representative CLEM; Representatives CANNON, KOTEK, Senator AVAKIAN

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 establish school garden program. Directs department to award grants to school districts for garden-based education programs and field trips to educational farms.

Appropriates moneys from General Fund to department for grants.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2007.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to school garden program; appropriating money; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas garden-based education programs have been shown in studies to increase students' achievement test scores and grade point averages, as well as decrease discipline problems and absenteeism; and

Whereas after participating in garden-based education programs, students have an increased consumption of fruits and vegetables, willingness to try vegetables, healthy snacking behavior and physical activity pattern; and

Whereas some garden-based education programs provide job training for students; and

Whereas the Legislative Assembly finds that it is in the best interest of Oregon children, farmers and communities to empower schools to increase their use of local farm products in their food service programs; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Education shall establish a school garden program.

Through the program, the department shall:

(a) Coordinate and oversee garden-based education programs offered by school districts; and

(b) Award grants to school districts pursuant to subsection (2) of this section.

(2) The department shall award grants to school districts for:

(a) Garden-based education programs based on criteria established by the department.

The criteria adopted by the department must facilitate program success by requiring the integration of the programs into school district wellness policies.

(b) Field trips to educational farms.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated to the Department of Education, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2007, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$_____ for the purpose of the school garden program under section 1 of this 2007 Act.

SECTION 3. This 2007 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2007 Act takes effect July 1, 2007.

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.