

HB 2052 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 4/21, 4/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines Native American items of cultural significance. Defines public school events. Requires school districts to allow students participating in high school graduation ceremonies and other school events to wear Native American items of cultural significance. Does not prevent school districts from prohibiting an item or object that would cause a disruption or replace a cap or gown. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of tribal regalia to students and families
- Value of high school graduation in tribal communities
- Experiences of students

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon is home to nine federally recognized tribes, as well as Native American communities in urban areas. The Oregon Department of Education's most recent annual report shows that for the 2019-2020 school year, there were 7, 010 American Indian/Alaska Native students enrolled in Oregon's schools. House Bill 2052 requires schools and districts to allow these students to wear traditional items at school events.