

HB 2589 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Gorsek

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 04/26/21

Action: Do pass the A-Eng bill.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Gelser, Gorsek, Robinson, Thomsen

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Matt Perreault, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/19, 4/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires each public institution of higher education to have the same developmental educational requirements and require the same placement tests for students entering from high school and for students who pass the General Educational Development (GED) test and receive a score designated as "GED College Ready." Allows Higher Education Coordinating Commission to adopt rules to implement this requirement. Becomes operational for 2022-2023 academic year.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Redundancy of placement tests for students with recently earned GED certifications
- Historical marginalization of students who earn GED
- Career and college readiness skills measured by GED test
- Characteristics of GED College Ready recommendation
- Academic success of students who earn GED
- Necessity of remediation for GED students

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

High school equivalency tests such as the General Educational Development (GED) are certified in Oregon by the Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development within the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). The office partners with the GED Testing Services company to administer the test.

GED Testing Services defines three levels of passing scores on the GED test: A score of 145-164 is considered passing; a score of 165-174 or higher is considered "College Ready;" a score of 175-200 is considered "College Ready+."

House Bill 2589 A requires each public university and community college to have the same developmental educational requirements and require the same placement tests for students who pass the GED and receive a "GED College Ready" score as for students who enter from traditional high school pathways.