

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** No fiscal impact

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**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

**Vote:** 4 - 0 - 1

**Yeas:** Kruse, Metsger, Westlund, Walker

**Nays:** 0

**Exc.:** Morse

**Prepared By:** Dana Richardson, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 1/25, 3/8

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** States that all post-secondary students with print-disabilities should have equal and effective access to instructional materials in alternative formats. Requires publisher, upon request from post-secondary education institution, to provide instructional materials in electronic formats. Provides exceptions. Authorizes State Board of Higher Education to develop guidelines to administer this Act. Defines terms related to print disabilities and instructional materials in alternative formats. Declares an emergency; effective July 1, 2007.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Extent of problem currently
- Responsibility of instructor to order materials that are available in alternative formats
- Types of disabilities that would qualify
- Types of alternative formats that would be required
- Related national initiatives
- Older texts that are out of print

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Replaces the measure.

**BACKGROUND:** Basic assistive technologies at Oregon's public universities include screen readers for students who are blind, screen enlargers for students with low vision, speech recognition for students with mobility issues, and in-class computer-based notetaking for students with hearing impairments. Disability service offices at institutions are responsible for manually scanning and formatting textbooks for students who require alternative formats. Students testified that in some cases they cannot obtain textbooks in an alternative format in a timely manner and suffer in their coursework or, ultimately, have to withdraw from courses and retake them once materials are available.