

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways & Means
Vote:	5 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Kruse, Metsger, Morse, Westlund, Walker
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Dana Richardson, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes the Multicultural Student to Educator Voucher Program within the Oregon Student Assistance Commission for students studying to become licensed educators. Establishes Multicultural Student to Educator Fund. Appropriates \$500,000 from General Fund for 2007-2009 biennium. Provides service award voucher for service as a teacher in an Oregon school district. Provides higher voucher amount and shorter period of required employment for teaching in a low-income area school or as a school counselor, mathematics, science, second language, English to speakers of other languages, reading, or special education teacher. Defines eligible participants and selection factors. Identifies permissible uses of vouchers. Provides guidelines for completing employment requirement.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Scope of application to teachers and education service district employees
- Criteria for selection
- Total dollar amount of vouchers that could be earned

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND: Recent census figures indicate that Oregon's population is becoming more culturally diverse. Between 1990-2000, the minority population in Oregon increased 52 percent to make up 16.5 percent of the entire population. In 1991, the Minority Teacher Act was adopted and set the goal for the number of minority teachers and administrators to be approximately proportionate to the number of minority children enrolled in the public schools by the year 2001. The 2001 report concluded that the state had not met its goal. More recent figures show minority students representing 25.8 percent of the total student enrollment as of 2005, while figures from the 2003-04 academic year show that minorities made up slightly more than 6 percent of teachers and administrators. The combined total of minority students completing public preparation programs in 2002-03 and 2003-04 was 352 students, representing 10.8 percent of all students completing preparation programs. This figure was a 8.7 percent increase over the previous two-year period.