

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass with Amendments to the A-Eng. Measure (Printed B-Eng.)

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Bonamici, Kruse, Metsger, Morse, Hass

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Dana Richardson, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/18, 5/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Specifies requirements for modified high school diplomas and extended high school diplomas. Specifies that school district or public charter school may not deny a student who has documented history of inability to meet academic content standards for diploma with reasonable modifications and accommodations the opportunity to pursue diploma with more stringent requirements than modified or extended diploma. Permits school district or charter school to award modified or extended diploma only upon consent of student's parent or guardian. Requires school districts and public charter schools to ensure that students have access to appropriate resources to achieve any type of diploma or alternative certificate. Requires school districts and public charter schools to provide to parents or guardians of students taking alternate assessments of availability of modified diploma, extended diploma or alternative certificate beginning in grade five. Prohibits awarding modified diploma not in compliance with terms of the Act on or after July 1, 2009. Declares an emergency; effective July 1, 2009.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Type of students eligible for extended diploma
- Types of diplomas that could be awarded
- Function of modified diploma
- Date of implementation for modified diplomas
- Effect of not adopting the measure
- Impact of different diplomas on eligibility for post-secondary financial aid

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Specifies that school district or public charter school may not deny a student who has documented history of inability to meet academic content standards for diploma with reasonable modifications and accommodations the opportunity to pursue diploma with more stringent requirements than modified or extended diploma. Permits school district or charter school to award modified or extended diploma only upon consent of student's parent or guardian. Substitutes criteria for modified diplomas in HB 2507A as criteria for extended high school diplomas. Prohibits awarding modified diploma not in compliance with terms of the Act on or after July 1, 2009. Removes language specifying that receipt of any type of diploma or alternative certificate does not constitute grounds for denying person 21 years of age or younger access to special education under federal law.

BACKGROUND: House Bill 2848 (2007) required the award of modified diplomas and alternative certificates to any student who qualified under rules devised by the State Board of Education or by school districts or public charter schools. Prior to enactment of House Bill 2848, school districts could choose to issue modified diplomas but were not required to do so.

House Bill 2507B codifies the modified diploma requirements established by the board and adds extended high school diplomas that require completion of a distribution of 12 credits. In order to be eligible to receive an extended diploma, a student must: 1) have a documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers, or a documented history of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement, and 2) have participated in an alternate assessment beginning no later than grade six and lasting for two or more assessment cycles. It has been reported that approximately one percent of students meet this criteria.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.