

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 and Means by Prior Reference
Vote:	10 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Dembrow, Harker, Huffman, Komp, Maurer, Roblan, Sprenger, Thatcher, VanOrman, Gelser
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Kevin T. Christiansen, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/18, 4/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Permits Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC) to award Oregon Roadmap to Language Excellence Scholarships (Scholarships) to qualified students. Allows OSAC to provide initial Scholarship of \$2,000 to qualified students who: 1) are United States' citizens or noncitizens legally residing in United States; 2) received diploma from high school in Oregon in academic year prior to receipt of Scholarship; 3) attend eligible post-secondary institution; 4) are pursuing Associate of Arts or more advanced degree; and 5) demonstrate proficiency in speaking, reading and writing in a language other than English. Requires language proficiency in a natural, human-based language. Permits student to receive up to three additional Scholarships of \$2,000 each if student continues to demonstrate measureable gain in proficiency each year in speaking, reading and writing in language in which Scholarship was awarded. Provides reduced Scholarship of \$500 less than amount received previous academic year for students who do not demonstrate measurable gain in language proficiency. Prohibits OSAC from awarding reduced Scholarship in consecutive academic years. Limits student to maximum of \$8,000 in Scholarships. Prohibits OSAC from awarding Scholarships to students enrolled in courses of study leading to a degree in theology, divinity or religious education. Provides OSAC with rule making authority to: 1) establish priority when Scholarship funds are not available to be awarded to all qualified students; and 2) to establish appropriate levels of language proficiency. Creates Oregon Roadmap to Language Excellence Fund. Requires OSAC to adopt rules regarding assessment method for measuring language proficiency that: 1) comply with American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages proficiency guidelines, and 2) measures only Intermediate-Mid level language skills and higher.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for foreign language education
- Levels of fluency
- Assessments to measure language proficiency

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Provides that language proficiency must be in a natural, human-based language. Requires OSAC to adopt rules regarding assessment method for measuring language proficiency that: 1) complies with American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages proficiency guidelines, and 2) measures only Intermediate-Mid level language skills and higher.

BACKGROUND: House Bill 2756A amends ORS 348.180 and 348.570 to create the Oregon Roadmap to Language Excellence Scholarship program for students. The program provides scholarship opportunities of up to \$2,000 per year to students who demonstrate proficiency in reading, writing and speaking in a language other than English. Scholarships can be renewed by those students who make measurable gain in language proficiency each year.