

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2283 - A

Seventy-Sixth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2011 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

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Measure Description:

Specifies length of time during which student is allowed to satisfy requirements for modified diploma, extended diploma or alternative certificate.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Education, School Districts

Summary of Expenditure Impact: See Analysis

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

The measure specifies the length of time during which a student is allowed to satisfy the requirements of a modified diploma, extended diploma, or alternative certificate and allows for a reduction in time if consent is provided. The measure stipulates that consent for a reduction in time must be provided in writing and that the school district must provide information regarding the number of consents during a school year to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The measure specifies that a student receiving a modified diploma, extended diploma, or alternative certificate shall have access to the greater number of instructional hours of transition services that is provided to a student attending a public high school or the number of hours that has been stipulated in the student's individualized education program (IEP). Allows for the student's individualized education program team, which includes the parent and student, to decide that the student will not access total number of hours available and requires written consent. Additionally, the school district may enter into an interagency agreement with another agency for transition services to be provided and that the school district retains the responsibility of ensuring the student has the access to transition services required by the measure.

The Department of Education's administrative rules state that a school district or public charter school may only grant eligibility for a modified diploma to a student that has a documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers or medical condition that creates barrier to achievement.

School districts are required by law to provide the transition services established by the IEP and are monitored by the Department for compliance. The Department notes that by virtue of the IEP, the total number of instructional hours, transitional services, and other services are greater than the instructional hours of a student attending a public high school.

The Department states that currently students continuing in school until the age of 21 after receiving a modified diploma receive services according to their IEP, including services that may be provided or paid for by other agencies such as Vocational Rehabilitation of DHS.

The fiscal impact is indeterminate. The number of students that will meet the eligibility requirements and receive a modified diploma, extended diploma, or alternative certificate is indeterminate. The most recent Oregon Statewide Report Card from 2009-2010 reports that of the 40,792 students that completed high school in 2008-09, 963 (2.4%) earned a modified diploma. The number of instructional hours of transition services that will be required and the number of students that utilize the access to instructional hours guaranteed by the measure is indeterminate and may fluctuate yearly and between school districts.

There is a minimal fiscal impact to the Department of Education for the data collection of consent forms.