

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 5 - 0 - 3

Yeas: Barnhart, Berger, Holvey, Hunt, Olson

Nays: 0

Exc.: Freeman, Garrett, Wingard

Prepared By: Jim Stenbridge, Administrator and Victoria Cox, Committee Staff

Meeting Dates: 6/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Eliminates alternative methods by which students may satisfy mathematics or English requirements for high school diploma. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2011.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) tests
- Conflict between statutory provision regarding OAKS passage and administrative rule regarding math and English credits required for high school graduation
- Statutory authority for Department of Education rulemaking

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: ORS 329.451 was amended in 2005 to permit school districts to award a high school diploma to a student who “has met or exceeded the academic content standards for mathematics or English at a level established by the board, as demonstrated on Oregon assessments; or displays proficiency in mathematics or English at a level established by the board.” Confusion resulted for school districts regarding the statutory language and the implementing Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR 581-022-1131). For example, under current law, a student’s passing score on the state OAKS test, satisfies the state graduation requirements (4 credits), thus removing upper level course requirements.

Proponents assert that Senate Bill 24 addresses the original intent by providing alternate methods for students to satisfy mathematics and English requirements for a high school diploma, while removing the statutory language that has been perceived to conflict with administrative rules.