

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 8 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Barnhart, Berger, Freeman, Garrett, Holvey, Wingard, Hunt, Olson
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Jim Stembridge, Administrator and Victoria Cox, Committee Staff
Meeting Dates: 5/18, 5/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Department of Education (ODE) to grant waiver to allow school district to contract with entity that meets specified criteria for purpose of administering nationally normed assessments. Directs ODE to reimburse school district for cost of assessments that are administered under waiver. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2001.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- College Board's PSAT versus ACT's PLAN assessments
- Importance of longitudinal data to identify best practices
- Comparative costs of assessments

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Currently, Oregon Department of Education (ODE) collaborates with a contracted nonprofit entity to administer a nationally normed assessment of all students in grade 10 enrolled in public schools. The purpose of the assessment is to predict student success and identify those with potential to excel in advance placement (AP) or other honors courses. Results are also used by higher education institutions to recruit students to attend college. ODE annually spends up to \$550,000 for grade 10 assessment tests.

ODE currently contracts with the College Board to administer the nationally normed grade 10 assessment test known as the PSAT. When the contract became effective, some school districts had already contracted with ACT to administer its test known as PLAN, and the districts were allowed to seek a waiver to continue with ACT. In lieu of using the contractor selected by ODE, school districts requested permission to renew waivers each year for the continuation of administering a nationally normed assessment to all students in grade 10. If the district had entered into a contract with the entity for the 2007-2008 school year and the entity plans to meet the ODE criteria, Senate Bill 331 provides that ODE will grant a waiver good for one year and renewable each school year. The measure further provides that ODE will reimburse a school district for the cost of assessments administered under the waiver.