

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Bonamici, George, Morse, Shields, Hass
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Linda Lindholm, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 3/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Department of Education (ODE) to grant waiver to allow school districts 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:

- Assessment test purposes
- Waivers granted in Oregon
- Non-interference with other assessment contracts

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

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

Currently, there is one non-profit entity that ODE contracts with to administer the assessment tests. When this contract came into effect some school districts had already contracted with another entity and they were allowed to seek a waiver each year to continue with their chosen provider. In lieu of using the contractor selected by ODE, school districts requested permission to renew waivers 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 with funds available from the department.