

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Fiscal 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: 3/10, 3/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires instruction in Oregon Studies in grade six, seven or eight for a minimum of two semesters. Takes effect July 1, 2012.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Touchstones of state heritage and pride
- Retention and understanding of subject matter
- Proficiency based education
- Levels of enthusiasm and support from legislators and students
- Restructure of current social science standards, benchmarks and guidance materials
- Governance, mandates and curriculum control issues

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: ORS 329.007 defines Oregon Studies as history, geography, economics and civics specific to the State of Oregon. Oregon Studies instruction in Oregon government includes municipal, county, tribal and state government, as well as the electoral and legislative processes. Currently, Oregon history is taught in the fourth grade. Senate Bill 602 requires that Oregon studies be taught in grades six, seven or eight for a minimum of two semesters. Over half of the states that have similar dedicated courses on their state's history, government, culture and geography offer it in the middle school or above.