

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do pass

Vote: 9 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Fagan, Gomberg, Gorsek, Huffman, Parrish, Whisnant, Reardon, Sprenger, Gelser

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Lea Kear, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/8, 2/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Changes the term “second languages” to “world languages” for the purpose of elementary and secondary education requirements. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2013.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Linguistic diversity of students in Oregon schools
- 2011 legislation
- Impact on students whose first language is American Sign Language

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The ability to communicate with others and to interact with cultural sensitivity is widely considered key to preparing students for the 21st century. Oregon education requirements include second languages.

ORS 329.007 defines “second languages” as any foreign language or American Sign Language. House Bill 2099 makes the terminology and definition more consistent with federal and other state definitions that use the term “world languages” to mean American Sign Language and languages other than English.

This measure was previously introduced in the 2011 session as Senate Bill 23. Senate Bill 23 passed unanimously in the Senate and was in committee upon adjournment.