

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 9 - 0 - 0

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

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Lea Kear, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs the Department of Education (ODE) to ensure that the statewide assessment system is available in American Sign Language (ASL). Directs ODE to develop alternative assessment if the statewide assessment system cannot be administered in ASL. Exempts students whose primary language is ASL from high school diploma requirements that cannot be administered in ASL. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2013.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Difference between ASL and English
- Relation of bill to 40-40-20
- Signing interpretation of assessments

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The current law does not provide for allowing the statewide assessment system to be administered in ASL. Oregon has made the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) system available in several world languages, but not in ASL. Many Oregon students have ASL as their primary language and English as their second language. For these students, the current law means that they may receive a modified diploma rather than a standard diploma. House Bill 2757 requires that statewide assessments be available in ASL or, if unavailable, that students be exempt from related diploma requirements.