

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 4 - 0 - 1
Yeas: Knopp, Kruse, Roblan, Hass
Nays: 0
Exc.: Beyer
Prepared By: Richard Donovan, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 3/26, 4/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Broadens definition of term 'minority' for purpose of Minority Teacher Act (the Act). Establishes new goals for the Act. Directs representatives of Education and Workforce Policy Advisor, Oregon University System, Department of Education and Teacher Standards and Practices Commission to jointly submit report on Minority Teacher Act of 1991. Requires submission of report to interim legislative committees no later than July 1, 2014. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Existing gap in representation in teaching corps for minority-identified students
- Parity goals of the Act not met by 2001; currently not met
- Right of students to have everyday exposure to adults of a similar ethnic or cultural character to their own who are also professionals
- Diversity as an asset that brings value to the classroom, as well as the broader society
- Ability to implement policies locally, but also adopt best practices that have been successful in other states
- Relatively modest targets of the measure; scaled back from goals of initial 1991 Act
- Focus on actual implementation and achievable goals, rather than focusing on study or survey; “how do we move from a ‘study’ to an ‘expectation?’”

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: In 1991, the Minority Teacher Act was enacted, and later codified as Oregon Revised Statute 342.433. The Act describes goals to be achieved by 2001, specifically indicating that the number of minority teachers, including administrators, employed by school districts and Education Service Districts shall be approximately proportionate to the number of minority children enrolled in the public schools of this state. The Oregon University System produced one report in 2005, and the Portland African American Leadership Forum indicates that it produced a second report in 2011. Both reports indicate that the state has not achieved the goals set forth in the Act.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.