

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Senate Committee On Education****Fiscal:** May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:****Action:****Meeting Dates:****Prepared By:** Richard Donovan, Committee Administrator**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes criteria by which school district may establish post-graduate scholar program to receive and expend certain State School Fund moneys for certain students who have satisfied requirements for high school diploma. Directs Department of Education and Higher Education Coordinating Commission to submit reports related to programs to interim legislative committees on education. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Value of existing programs
- Specific program examples, including Corvallis' "College Hill" program for credit-deficient students
- 5th Year/Post-Graduate Scholar programs as encouraging good actions from students
- Continuing concern with cost and effects of paying for post-secondary education from the State School Fund

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

(-1s) Requires that courses be approved by school district and lead to certificate or diploma; makes student ineligible if student qualifies for federal grant that is more than or equal to average cost of tuition; prevents receiving SSF for transportation for new routes. (-2s) Incorporate -1s; establish June 30, 3031 sunset on provisions. (-4s) Incorporates -2; specifies reporting requirements for Department of Education; clarifies that school district may only receive State School Fund monies for post-graduate scholars who enroll in courses at a community college under a program established under section 2 of the measure. (Other amendments?) The committee has been informed that other amendments have been requested, but committee staff has not received those amendments.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 327 generally regulates the state financing of elementary and secondary education. It allows for programs wherein a student who has satisfied the requirements for a diploma may delay the reception of their diploma, remain enrolled in their school district, and attend a community college for at least half of their coursework, with the school district paying some or all of the student's tuition, fees, and book costs for coursework at the community college. These "fifth year high school programs" are funded out of the State School Fund by inclusion of the student participating in fifth-year programs in calculations of aggregate days membership.

Senate Bill 322 (2015) would have ended funding for these programs by specifying that calculations of aggregate days membership may not include students who are participating in fifth year high school programs. That measure remained in committee on *sine die*.

Senate Bill 1537 addresses concerns around the costs associate with fifth year programs by defining specific programs as "Post-Graduate Scholar" programs. It would further establish criteria by which a school district may create post-graduate scholar programs, as well as receive and expend certain State School Fund moneys for those programs.