

**SB 1537**

**Relating to payment for community college courses by school districts**

---

On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Education Subcommittee voted to recommend passage of SB 1537, with amendments.

The measure establishes criteria by which school districts may establish post-graduate scholar programs which receive and expend State School Fund moneys for certain students who have satisfied requirements for a high school diploma. In the past these programs have sometimes been referred to as 5th year programs. The changes in this bill narrow the scope of students that may participate in the programs. School districts establishing a post-graduate scholar program must meet certain requirements including having dedicated staff for the program, targeting inclusion of underserved students, and describe achievement targets for participating students. The bill has a June 2021 sunset date for the new programs.

The Subcommittee recommended the bill be amended to clarify the relationship between this program and the Oregon Promise program. Also added was an \$82,102 appropriation for the Department of Education to provide resources for the reporting required of the agency as well as for technical assistance to districts.

The Education Subcommittee recommends SB 1537 be amended by the -A13 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.