

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Senate Committee On Education****Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact**Action Date:** 02/10/16**Action:** Do Pass With Amendments And Requesting Referral To Ways And Means.
(Printed A-Engrossed.)**Meeting Dates:** 02/03, 02/10**Vote:**

Yeas: 6 - Baertschiger Jr, Beyer, Gelser, Knopp, Kruse, Roblan

Exc: 1 - Hass

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. Requires that courses be approved by school district and may 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 State School Fund (SSF) for transportation for new routes. Establishes June 30, 2021 sunset on provisions relating to post-graduate scholar programs. Directs Department of Education and Higher Education Coordinating Commission to submit reports related to programs to interim legislative committees on education. Specifies reporting requirements. Clarifies that school district may only receive SSF moneys for post-graduate scholars who enroll in courses at community college under program established under post-graduate scholar section of measure. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Value of existing programs
- Specific program examples, including Corvallis' "College Hill" program
- 5th Year/Post-Graduate Scholar programs as encouraging good actions from students
- Desire to have controlled program regulations to give students a path to the future
- Desire to control costs of 5th Year/Post-Graduate Scholar programs
- Continuing concern with costs and effects of paying for post-secondary education from the State School Fund

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Requires that courses be approved by school district and may 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 State School Fund (SSF) for transportation for new routes. Establishes June 30, 2021 sunset on provisions relating to post-graduate scholar programs. Specifies reporting requirements for Department of Education. Removes "first generation" college student requirement from introduced measure. Clarifies that school district may only receive SSF moneys for post-graduate scholars who enroll in courses at a community college under a program established under post-graduate scholar section of measure. Clarifies that a school district may receive or expend moneys distributed from the State School Fund for post-graduate scholars who enroll in courses at community college only if the post-graduate scholars are enrolled in courses as part of program established under this measure.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 327 generally regulates the state financing of elementary and secondary education. It allows for programs wherein students who have satisfied the requirements for a diploma may delay the reception of the 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 students' tuition, fees, and book costs for coursework at the community college. These “fifth year high school programs” are funded out of the SSF 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-A addresses concerns around the costs associated with fifth year programs by defining specific programs as “Post-Graduate Scholar” programs. It establishes criteria by which a school district may create post-graduate scholar programs, as well as receive and expend certain SSF moneys for those programs. It also requires the Department of Education and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to report on these programs to the Interim Committees on Education.