SB 353 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Senate Committee On General Government and Accountability

Meeting Dates: 4/6, 4/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes task force on the High School Graduation and College and Career Readiness Act. Establishes membership and meeting requirements.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of Measure 98
- Flexibility for school district
- Recent program rescissions
- Benefits of career and technical education (CTE)
- Programs in specific school districts

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Establishes the High School Graduation and College and Career Readiness Grant Fund for the purposes of funding Ballot Measure 98 (BM 98) services. Removes \$800 per student requirement. Apportions funds based on the extended weighted average daily membership of high school students. Requires school districts to use funds for purposes prescribed by Ballot Measure 98 as determined by the district based on the needs and interests of the community and the students served by the district. Removes requirement to increase the amount appropriated, allocated or otherwise made available each school year. Allows school districts to spend funds on career and technical education (CTE), college-level educational opportunities and/or dropout prevention efforts. Removes provisions encouraging districts to prioritize programs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Permits the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to offer technical assistance to school districts in the selection and use of strategies related to student success. Removes provisions requiring ODE to monitor the performance of school districts, intervene, and facilitate continuous improvement. Adjusts the amount ODE may retain for administration. Requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules ensuring that the funds are used for efforts to improve graduation rates and college and career readiness by establishing or expanding CTE programs, college-level educational opportunities and dropout prevention. Removes requirements for school districts to conduct annual analyses of student attendance and disciplinary referrals.

BACKGROUND:

Measure 98, officially titled the Oregon State Funding for Dropout Prevention and College Readiness Initiative, was approved by voters on November 8, 2016. It received over 1.2 million (66%) affirmative votes, while just over 650,000 (34%) voted against. As drafted, the measure directed the Legislative Assembly to appropriate at least \$800 per enrolled high school student per school year for distributions to districts with approved plans to establish or expand career and technical education programs, college-level educational opportunities, and dropout-prevention efforts. The -1 amendment to Senate Bill 353 alters the measure by establishing a grant fund with moneys to be distributed proportionally to districts that apply and modifies spending requirements for districts.