

HB 2311 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 5/16, 5/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Revises 40-40-20 higher education goals to relate to adult Oregonians completing education, rather than to all adult Oregonians. Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission, in coordination with State Workforce Investment Board, to establish by rule educational attainment goals for adult Oregonians who are not currently enrolled in a kindergarten through grade 12 school, an institution of higher education or another post-secondary training program.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of state 40-40-20 goals in setting high standards for the educational attainment of Oregonians
- Literal reading of current 40-40-20 statute suggests goals apply to Oregonians at every stage of life
- Distinction between rising, young Oregonians and adult Oregonians in appropriateness of 40-40-20 goals
- Importance of ambitious education goals for adult Oregonians based on labor market opportunities and need, rather than 40-40-20 goals

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND:

Oregon's state educational goals, known as "40-40-20," were adopted in 2011. By 2025, the state aims for 40 percent of Oregonians to have obtained a bachelor's degree or higher, 40 percent to have an associate's degree or certificate in a skilled occupation and the remaining 20 percent to have a high school diploma or equivalent credential. The Higher Education Coordinating Commission reports that current census-based data indicate 33 percent of Oregonians have achieved a bachelor's degree or higher, 17 percent have obtained an associate's degree or certificate and the remainder of residents have some or no college experience.