

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2017 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

Measure: HB 2220 - A

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

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Measure Description:

Removes certain requirements veterans must meet prior to receiving high school diploma.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Education, School Districts

Analysis:

The bill expands on an existing exception to Oregon law and permits honorably discharged veterans that served in a combat zone, or other conflict specified by the bill, to receive a high school diploma. A veteran may request a school district to issue them a high school diploma if the veteran attended a high school before serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. The family of a deceased veteran may also request a school district to issue a diploma if the veteran lived within the boundaries of the district at the time of death or was a resident of this state at the time of death and attended a high school of the school district.

The legislation has no fiscal impact to the Department of Education however the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) believes that the ramifications of this measure and the impacts to school districts cannot be fully quantified and therefore the fiscal impact cannot be determined. LFO has not been able to acquire any existing data from state agencies that can directly quantify the number of veterans that do not have high school diplomas. Therefore, eliminating a necessary multiplier used to determine the total cost estimate associated with the administration and cost of issuance of a diploma. LFO acknowledges that the bill is likely minimal and absorbable within existing budgetary parameters for school districts, given that the bill would eliminate the need for districts to verify certain criteria under current law; such as a minimum score on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery.

Furthermore, the military has standards in place which restrict the number of new recruits that meet the minimum standard of possessing a General Educational Development (GED) certificate. Currently new military recruits with GED's are limited to no more than 10%, depending on the branch of military, of recruitment totals. This means that, under these standards, future veterans, who will qualify for a diploma under this legislation, will be limited in number and will already poses a GED which may curtail their interest in requesting a high school diploma through this process.