

**HB 2220 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Sen. Roblan

**Senate Committee On Education**

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**Action Date:** 05/09/17

**Action:** Do pass with amendments to resolve conflicts. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 5-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 5 - Gelser, Hass, Kruse, Linthicum, Roblan

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Modifies criteria for issuing high school diplomas to veterans by removing requirement that veterans did not graduate from high school due to service in the Armed Forces, and requirement that veterans must have received General Educational Development (GED) certificate, post-secondary degree or minimum score on Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB).

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Employment barriers for older veterans
- GED certificates can hinder veteran access to job opportunities and promotions
- Examples of employers who cannot hire veterans due to company policies requiring possession of a high school diploma
- Current high school diploma requirement for Armed Forces enlistment

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Resolves conflict with House Bill 2314, removing language relating to high school equivalency tests such as the General Educational Development (GED) exam.

**BACKGROUND:**

Under current law (ORS 332.114), Oregon school districts issue high school diplomas upon request to veterans who meet certain qualifications, including: 1) the individual attended a high school prior to service in the Armed Forces, 2) the individual did not graduate high school due to service in the Armed Forces, 3) the individual was discharged or released under honorable conditions, 4) the individual served in the Armed Forces during specified wars or conflicts, and 5) the individual has received a General Educational Development (GED) certificate, post-secondary degree, or minimum score on Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB).

Since the mid-1960s, the United States Armed Forces has considered an applicant's educational level in making enlistment decisions. Currently, all recruits must take the ASVAB test, and 90 percent of enlistees possess a high school diploma, or at least 15 college credits. The minimum education requirement for enlistment is a GED. Consequently, the language in House Bill 2220-A that eliminates GED, post-secondary degree or ASVAB score requirements largely pertains to older veterans. The Oregon Department of Education reports that the primary problem this bill seeks to address is the challenge older veterans face in accessing job opportunities and promotions that require a high school diploma.