

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: SB 1513 - 1

79th Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2018 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office

*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*

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Measure Description:

Requires student to correctly answer specified percentage of questions on civics test before being eligible to receive high school diploma.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Education (ODE), School Districts

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

Costs related to the measure are indeterminate at this time - See explanatory analysis.

Analysis:

The bill requires a student to correctly answer at least 60 percent of the questions on a civics test, that consists of 100 questions used for the civics portion of the naturalization test created by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, before being eligible to receive a high school diploma. An exception from the graduation requirement is provided for persons with an individualized education program, or with a plan developed in accordance with federal disability law. The Act takes effect on July 1, 2020.

Civics instruction is currently required under the state’s Common Core Curriculum Goals (ORS 329.045); therefore, it is assumed that the workload associated with teacher training, development of instructional materials, and instructional class-time, is already a part of current practice and any necessary changes due to this legislation will be minimal and absorbable within existing budgetary parameters. However, it is unclear if the Department of Education (ODE) or individual school districts will be responsible for the civics test development and administration; consequently, the fiscal impact of the measure is indeterminate.

Adding an additional testing requirement for graduation may also reduce the available instruction time and teacher preparatory time for school districts that are not already currently implementing this or a similar exam. This measure would not change the current amount of State School Fund distributions nor the ADMw calculations used to fund school districts.

The Legislative Fiscal Office notes that the bill does not explicitly require the collection of data related to the civics testing outcomes, therefore no additional workload associated with reporting or database/information technology changes are anticipated.