SB 154 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 2/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to conduct a study to determine whether school districts should use the American College Testing (ACT), the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or a standardized test developed through a multi-state consortium for the grade 11 statewide assessment. Requires ODE to report the results of the study to the legislature no later than September 15, 2020. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued. FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law requires the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to implement a valid and reliable statewide assessment system for all students. The federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires states to assess students in math and reading in grades three through eight and once in high school, and in science at least once in elementary, middle and high school. Oregon's high school assessment is the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), completed in grade 11. ESSA permits states to allow districts to use a nationally recognized high school academic assessment in place of the statewide high school assessment. To comply with federal law, a district must use the same locally selected, nationally recognized assessment in all of its high schools. Senate Bill 154 requires ODE to conduct a study to determine if school districts should be allowed to use the ACT, SAT, or another standardized test for the grade 11 assessments.