

SB 17 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 03/18/19

Action: Do pass with amendments. Refer to Student Success and Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Gelser, Hass, Heard, Thomsen, Wagner

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/13, 3/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Task Force on the Implementation of Electronic Transcripts in High School. Directs the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Executive Director of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to each appoint six members. Establishes membership, quorum, voting, meeting, and staffing requirements. Directs the task force to determine how to implement a system to provide every Oregon high school student with an electronic transcript. Establishes criteria for making the determination. Requires task force to consult with students who transferred from an Oregon public high school to an Oregon post-secondary institution. Requires task force to submit a report to the legislature no later than December 1, 2019. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Description of electronic transcript system
- Student mobility, credit loss, and repeating of courses
- Transitions from high school to high school, and high school to community college or university
- Challenges in current transcript system
- Task force goals, work plan, and timeline
- Need for private institution, faculty, and student representatives
- Student privacy issues
- Cost of electronic transcript systems
- Electronic transcript systems in other states

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Establishes that task force appointees are voting members. Provides exception. Requires task force to include at least one member with direct experience with students and one non-voting member from an independent, post-secondary institution. Requires task force to consult with students who transferred from an Oregon public high school to an Oregon post-secondary institution.

BACKGROUND:

Electronic transcripts, or eTranscripts, are generated by a web-based transcript system that allows high schools and higher education institutions to share students' academic information electronically. An eTranscript is considered an official high school academic record. Currently, each Oregon school district uses its own distinct transcript system. Senate Bill 17 A creates a task force to determine how an eTranscript system can make it easier for Oregon students to move between high schools, track accelerated learning credits, enroll in post-secondary institutions, and access financial aid. The task force must also identify any costs, benefits, and implications to school districts, community colleges, public universities, and the state.