

SB 692 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 04/01/19

Action: Do pass and be referred to Student Success and to Ways and Means by prior reference.

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: 3/27, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Youth Development Division (YDD) to develop and administer a statewide youth reengagement system. Permits school districts to provide youth reengagement programs under the system. Establishes requirements for programs. Permits school districts to enter into agreements to provide program instruction and services. Establishes requirements for agreements. Permits school districts to receive funding for eligible youths participating in programs. Defines eligible youth and establishes funding criteria. Requires Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and YDD to provide technical assistance to school districts. Requires Oregon State Board of Education and YDD to adopt rules, as specified. Requires ODE to minimize disincentives for school districts to re-engage youth.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Statewide reengagement network
- Washington's Open Doors Youth Reengagement program
- Gaps in the current system
- Completion of diploma and General Equivalency Degree (GED)
- Work and family demands
- Young adults from disadvantaged and difficult backgrounds
- Incarceration rates of high school drop-outs
- Career navigators
- Local partnerships
- Investing in youths who have left high school without a diploma

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

YDD is a division within ODE that provides services to school-age children and youths up to 24 years of age to support educational success, focus on crime prevention, and reduce high-risk behaviors. According to YDD, 17,506 Oregon youths ages 16 to 21 do not have a high school diploma or GED and are not enrolled in school. Senate Bill 692 directs YDD to establish a statewide youth reengagement system that will allow students who have dropped out of high school to receive mentorship and to earn credits toward graduation or career readiness. The bill also requires ODE to adjust school accountability systems to remove disincentives to offering reengagement programs.