

HB 2589 -1, -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 2/25, 3/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires public universities and community colleges to allow students who have received satisfactory grade and certificate of passing high school equivalency test to bypass developmental educational requirements and placement tests. Specifies satisfactory grade on high school equivalency test as 165 or higher on certified General Educational Development (GED) test. Allows public universities or community colleges to require grade higher than 165 on GED test for students to bypass developmental educational requirements and placement tests upon notifying and receiving approval from Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Requires HECC to convene committee to determine whether public university or community college may require grade higher than 165 on GED test for students to bypass requirements. Requires committee to submit report to higher education committees of Legislative Assembly upon approving university or community college's request. Allows HECC to adopt rules to implement requirements. Applies provisions to 2022-2023 academic year.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Diversity of student backgrounds in higher education
- Rigor of General Educational Development (GED) test
- Characteristics of GED College Ready score

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces measure. Requires public universities and community colleges to allow students who have received satisfactory grade and certificate of passing high school equivalency test to bypass developmental educational requirements and placement tests. Specifies satisfactory grade on high school equivalency test as score designated as "GED College Ready" on certified General Educational Development (GED) test. Allows Higher Education Coordinating Commission to adopt rules to implement requirements

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact

-3 Replaces measure. Requires each public institution of higher education to have the same developmental educational requirements and require the same placement tests for students entering from high school and for students who pass the General Educational Development (GED) test and receive a score designated as "GED College Ready." Allows Higher Education Coordinating Commission to adopt rules to implement this requirement.

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

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

BACKGROUND:

High school equivalency tests such as the General Education Development (GED) are certified in Oregon by the Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development within the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). The office partners with the GED Testing Services company to administer the test.

GED Testing Services defines three levels of passing scores on the GED test: A score of 145-164 is considered passing; a score of 165-174 or higher is considered "College Ready"; a score of 175-200 is considered "College

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Ready+".

House Bill 2589 requires public universities and community colleges to allow students who have received a specified satisfactory grade and certificate of passing a high school equivalency test to bypass developmental educational requirements and placement tests.