

SB 744 A -A4, -A5 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 5/13, 5/25, 5/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Department of Education to review high school graduation requirements for all high school diploma options. Establishes criteria for review. Suspends essential learning skills graduation requirement for 2021-2022 school year and 2022-2023 school year. Requires submission of report and recommendations to legislative committees by September 1, 2022. Prohibits State Board of Education from requiring students who successfully complete credit requirements to show proficiency in any other skill or academic content area beginning with the 2023-2024 school year. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

Passed Senate: Passed. Ayes, 16; Nays, 12--Anderson, Boquist, Findley, Girod, Hansell, Johnson, Kennemer, Knopp, Linthicum, Robinson, Thatcher, Thomsen; Excused, 2--Frederick, Heard.

No fiscal impact.

No revenue impact.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- High school graduation requirements
- History of essential learning skills requirement
- Necessity for holistic review

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A4 Removes prohibition on State Board of Education requiring students who successfully complete credit requirements to show proficiency in any other skill or academic content area. Extends suspension of essential learning skills requirement to the 2023-2024 school year. Adds requirement that Department of Education review essential learning skills requirement and means by which students demonstrate proficiency.

-A5 Removes prohibition on State Board of Education requiring students who successfully complete credit requirements to show proficiency in any other skill or academic content area. Extends suspension of essential learning skills requirement to the 2023-2024 school year. Adds requirement that Department of Education review essential learning skills requirement and means by which students demonstrate proficiency.

BACKGROUND:

State law currently establishes only a portion of the requirements for a high school diploma (math and English language arts credits). The remaining credit requirements, along with additional requirements such as demonstrated proficiency in nine essential skills, education plans, and education profiles, are codified in Oregon Administrative Rule 581-022-2000.

Senate Bill 744 A requires the Department of Education to review high school graduation requirements and suspends essential learning skills requirements for two school years, until the Department's report is submitted to the legislature. The measure permanently prevents the State Board of Education from requiring students who have completed their required coursework to demonstrate proficiency in any other skill or academic content area beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.