

SB 744 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Dembrow

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 03/31/21

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 3-2-0-0

Yeas: 3 - Dembrow, Gelser, Gorsek

Nays: 2 - Robinson, Thomsen

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/3, 3/31

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.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Current high school graduation requirements
- Diploma options
- Essential Skills requirements

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Extends review to all high school diploma options in Oregon. Modifies review, engagement, and reporting requirements.

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.