

SB 226 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 04/12/21

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

Vote: 3-2-0-0

Yeas: 3 - Dembrow, Gelser, Gorsek

Nays: 2 - Robinson, Thomsen

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/7, 4/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to convene advisory group to evaluate the appropriateness of, and compliance with, the media program standards developed by the State Board of Education. Requires ODE to appoint members to advisory group in consultation with organizations that represent public school educators and that promote school libraries. Requires ODE to submit report to interim legislative committee by December 30, 2021. Sunsets December 31, 2021. Requires State Board of Education to consult with State Library when reviewing and revising standards involving media programs and information literacy. Encourages school districts and public charter schools to offer courses in information literacy. Establishes requirement that Oregon Department of Education establish eligibility for specific diploma requirements to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in more than one language. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Condition of school libraries in Oregon
- Lack of teacher librarians in Oregon
- Work load of teacher librarians
- Inability of students to construct bibliographies or discern reliable from unreliable sources of information

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

The State Board of Education adopted its current media program standards in 2015. The media program standards provide direction to school libraries to offer multimedia instructional services to students, including information literacy, reading engagement, social responsibility, and technology integration. Oregon's Seal of Biliteracy is an existing program established in administrative rule that recognizes students who have achieved a high level of proficiency in multiple languages.

Senate Bill 226 A directs the Oregon Department of Education to convene an advisory group to evaluate the appropriateness of, and compliance with, the media program standards developed by the State Board of Education, and requires the State Board of Education to consult with the State Library when conducting its periodic review and revision of its media program standards. The measure also directs the Oregon Department of Education to recognize high school graduates proficient in multiple languages, establishing in statute a program that currently exists only in administrative rule.