

Senate Bill 599

Sponsored by Senator FREDERICK (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Establishes Task Force on High School Diploma Requirements. Prescribes membership and duties of task force.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to high school diploma requirements; and declaring an emergency.

2 Whereas Oregon's high school diploma requirements are in need of review; and

3
4 Whereas noncoursework requirements have become a barrier to graduation for many students
5 in this state; and

6 Whereas Oregon's administrative rules are outdated and refer to students who began grade nine
7 more than 15 years ago; and

8 Whereas legislators requested the Department of Education and the State Board of Education
9 to review administrative rules relating to high school graduation during the 2019 session and the
10 review has yet to occur; now, therefore,

11 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

12 **SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on High School Diploma Requirements is established.**

13 **(2) The task force consists of 19 members appointed as follows:**

14 **(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint one member from among members of the**
15 **Senate.**

16 **(b) The Minority Leader of the Senate shall appoint one member from among members**
17 **of the Senate.**

18 **(c) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member from among**
19 **members of the House of Representatives.**

20 **(d) The Minority Leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member from**
21 **among members of the House of Representatives.**

22 **(e) The President of the Senate shall appoint two members of the public based on the**
23 **recommendations of the chairperson of an interim or session committee of the Legislative**
24 **Assembly related to education.**

25 **(f) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members of the public**
26 **based on the recommendations of the chairperson of an interim or session committee of the**
27 **Legislative Assembly related to education.**

28 **(g) The Governor shall appoint 11 members as follows:**

29 **(A) The Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, or a designee of the deputy super-**
30 **intendent;**

31 **(B) One member who is a member of the State Board of Education;**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (C) One member who is an expert on developing and implementing policies and practices
 2 to improve equity in education;

3 (D) One member who is a member of a school district board;

4 (E) One member who is an administrator at a public school;

5 (F) One member who is a teacher at a public school;

6 (G) Two members who represent post-secondary institutions of education in this state;

7 (H) Two members who represent nonprofit organizations that are working on educational
 8 improvement in this state; and

9 (I) One member who is from the business community.

10 (3) All appointments to the task force made under subsection (2) of this section must be
 11 completed by August 1, 2021.

12 (4)(a) The task force shall:

13 (A) Review requirements for a high school diploma in this state, including requirements
 14 prescribed by statute and by the State Board of Education by rule.

15 (B) Review requirements for a high school diploma in other states and compare those
 16 requirements with the requirements for a high school diploma in this state.

17 (C) Examine alternative pathways to receiving a high school diploma that are available
 18 in other states.

19 (D) Determine which high school diploma requirements should be prescribed by statute
 20 and whether any high school diploma requirements should be prescribed by administrative
 21 rule.

22 (E) Identify recommendations for changes to legislation and administrative rule related
 23 to high school diplomas.

24 (b) The duties of the task force prescribed by paragraph (a) of this subsection shall focus
 25 on standard high school diplomas and not modified diplomas or extended diplomas.

26 (5) A majority of the voting members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the
 27 transaction of business.

28 (6) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the voting
 29 members of the task force.

30 (7) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

31 (8) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-
 32 ment to become immediately effective.

33 (9) The task force shall meet at least once each month from the time appointments are
 34 made until the task force submits the report as described in subsection (11) of this section.
 35 The task force may meet more frequently at the call of the chairperson or of a majority of
 36 the voting members of the task force.

37 (10) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

38 (11) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and
 39 shall include recommendations for legislation and administrative rules, to an interim com-
 40 mittee of the Legislative Assembly related to education no later than December 31, 2021.

41 (12) The Legislative and Policy Research Office shall provide staff support to the task
 42 force.

43 (13) Members of the Legislative Assembly appointed to the task force are nonvoting
 44 members of the task force and may act in an advisory capacity only.

45 (14) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not

1 entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses and serve as volunteers on the task
2 force.

3 (15) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist
4 the task force in the performance of the duties of the task force and, to the extent permitted
5 by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the task
6 force consider necessary to perform their duties.

7 SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2021 Act is repealed on June 30, 2022.

8 SECTION 3. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
9 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect
10 on its passage.

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