

HB 4112 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/1, 2/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$1,250,000 from the General Fund to Oregon Department of Education (ODE) for Educator Advancement Council (EAC) for the current biennium. Directs EAC, in partnership with ODE, to offer professional learning opportunities related to ethnic studies standards adopted by ODE. Provides that priority be given to school districts that demonstrate commitment to implementing ethnic studies standards before implementation deadline. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Past legislative action on ethnic studies standards
- Fiscal impact of measure
- Statutory definition of ethnic studies
- Accountability of standards implementation
- Role of Educator Advancement Council in preparing professional development for educators

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2017, the Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 2845, which established a years-long road map for the development of statewide ethnic studies standards to be incorporated into existing statewide social studies standards for K-12 schools. House Bill 2845 directed ODE to convene an advisory group of stakeholders to review existing statewide social studies standards and identify ways to update the standards to improve cultural competency and promote critical thinking with regard to the histories, contributions, and perspectives of ethnic and social minorities. The advisory group issued its recommendations in the summer of 2019 and the State Board of Education approved new social science standards integrating ethnic studies in March 2021. School districts are required to implement new standards by 2026.

House Bill 4112 appropriates moneys to ODE and EAC to offer professional learning opportunities related to ethnic studies standards and prioritizes school districts that demonstrate a commitment to implementing the standards earlier than the required deadline.