

SB 992 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 5/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Repeals provisions relating to alternative certificate and enacts provisions relating to certificate of attendance. Requires that school districts and charter schools ensure that students have on-site access to all resources and courses required for a diploma. Establishes requirements for issuing certificate of attendance. Requires reporting on whether or not students who withdraw from school prior to graduating have a disability and what category of disability. Repeals provisions allowing individualized education program teams to modify instructional hour requirements. Becomes operative July 1, 2024. Allows students who began ninth grade prior to July 1, 2020 to be awarded an alternative certificate if student satisfies requirements prior to July 1, 2024.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

SENATE VOTE: Passed. Ayes, 26; Nays, 2; Excused, 2

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Problems with alternative certificates
- Misinformation about uses of alternative certificates

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

State law establishes three types of diplomas: a regular high school diploma, a modified diploma, and an extended diploma. Additionally, current law allows students who meet specific requirements to earn an alternative certificate instead of a diploma. In order to earn a modified or extended diploma, students must meet specific eligibility requirements. ORS 329.451 establishes the eligibility requirements for students earning modified or extended diplomas. To earn a modified diploma, students must have a demonstrated inability to meet the full set of academic content standards for a high school diploma with reasonable modifications and accommodations. Students must also have a documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant barriers or have a documented history of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement. To earn an extended diploma, students must complete 12 credits and have a documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers, have a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement, or have a change in the ability to participate in grade-level activities as a result of a serious illness or injury that occurred after grade eight.

Senate Bill 992 A changes the alternative certificate to a certificate of attendance.