

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Buckley  
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Monroe

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

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Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 24 – 0 – 1

House

Yeas: Beyer, Buckley, Cowan, Freeman, Garrard, Komp, Kotek, McLane, Nathanson, Nolan, Richardson, G. Smith, Thatcher, Whisnant

Nays:

Exc:

Senate

Yeas: Devlin, Edwards, Girod, Johnson, Monroe, Nelson, Thomsen, Verger, Whitsett, Winters

Nays:

Exc: Bates

Prepared By: John Terpening, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: May 13, 2011

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Authorizes Oregon Student Assistance Commission to award Oregon Roadmap to Language Excellence Scholarship to qualified students attending eligible post-secondary institutions in the state. Specifies initial Scholarship of \$2,000 awarded by Commission to qualified students, with maximum of \$8,000 available over four academic years with measurable gain in language proficiency. Grants reduced Scholarship of \$500, less than the amount received in previous academic year, for students not demonstrating measurable gain. Requires Commission to adopt rules governing scholarship administration, language standards, assessment methods, and waiver requirements for student leave of absence.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Student eligibility and proficiency guidelines
- Fiscal Impact of the measure
- No funding source identified

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Previously introduced in 2009 as House Bill 2756, House Bill 2221-A amends ORS 348.180 and 438.570 by establishing the Scholarship program, and providing renewable scholarship opportunities of up to \$2,000 per year to students demonstrating proficiency in reading, writing and speaking in a language other than English. The 2009 measure has been expanded to provide that eligible languages must be in a natural, human-based language, excluding computer-based languages, musical notation and Esperanto. The strategic vision of the Oregon Roadmap to Language Excellence is to “create conditions that will allow every Oregon graduate to be professionally proficient in English and functionally proficient in another language by 2025.”