PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY   CARRIER:

Senate Committee on Education

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	
Vote:	
Yeas:	
Nays:	
Exc.:	
Prepared By:	Gretchen Engbring, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires school districts to report to Oregon Department of Education (ODE) on strategies and activities used to increase high school graduation rates or reduce chronic absenteeism. Requires ODE to report to Legislative Assembly each even-numbered year. Describes manner of report. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

BACKGROUND: The ODE defines a dropout as "a student who withdrew from school and did not graduate or transfer to another school that leads to graduation." Dropout data is collected in the Annual Cumulative Average Daily Membership (ADM) Data Collection at the end of each school year, which identifies students' enrollment dates and status as of the last day of enrollment for the year.

The graduation rate for students in Oregon public schools has been a topic of public debate recently. In April 2014, the Office of the Secretary of State issued an audit report titled, "Oregon Department of Education: Efforts to Close Achievement Gaps." That report indicates that, "Oregon has struggled with student achievement and graduation rates," reporting that one study, "ranked [Oregon] 40th in student achievement compared to other states." In January and February of 2015, multiple news outlets reported that Oregon posted "the nation's worst" or "second-worst" graduation rate for class of 2013.

House Bill 3319-A requires school districts to report to ODE on strategies and activities used to increase high school graduation rates or reduce chronic absenteeism, and further requires ODE to report to the Legislative Assembly each even-numbered year.

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.
Committee Services Form – 2015 Regular Session