

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Education

MEASURE: HB 2681 A
CARRIER: Sen. Beyer

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 05/07/15

Action: Do Pass The A-Eng Bill.

Meeting Dates: 04/30, 05/07

Vote:

Yeas: 7 - Baertschiger Jr, Beyer, Gelsner, Hass, Knopp, Kruse, Roblan

Prepared By: Gretchen Engbring, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) and State Board of Education (SBE) to oversee work group to examine and recommend effective processes and strategies for placing students in courses at community colleges. Specifies work group membership. Requires preliminary report to Legislative Assembly no later than February 1, 2016 and final report no later than September 15, 2016. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need to determine potential role of Smarter Balanced assessments to help place students in courses
- Negative impact on students placed in courses below their level
- Individuals who have been away from academic setting (e.g., adult or professional students) may not test as well
- Potential to place students in “short courses” to briefly review key concepts before placing them in more advanced course
- Teacher recommendations may be more accurate than placement tests

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Community colleges routinely test prospective students who wish to enroll in courses with reading, writing or math prerequisites. Some studies have indicated that the tests used for such purposes are not a reliable indicator of student readiness.

House Bill 2681-A requires HECC and SBE to oversee a work group jointly convened to address this issue. The work group is to include in its deliberations the possibility of using a statewide summative assessment for students entering community college directly from high school.