SB 692 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Youth Development Division (YDD) to develop and administer a statewide youth reengagement system. Permits school districts to provide youth reengagement programs under the system. Establishes requirements for program. Permits school district to enter into an agreement to provide program instruction and services. Establishes requirements for agreement. Permits school districts to receive funding for eligible youths participating in program. Defines eligible youth and establishes funding criteria. Requires Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and YDD to provide technical assistance to school districts. Requires SBE and YDD to adopt rules, as specified. Requires ODE to account for youths participating in reengagement programs in unified accounting system and to minimize disincentives for school districts to re-engage youth.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Statewide re-engagement network
- Washington's Open Door Program
- Gaps in the current system
- Completion of diploma and GED
- Work and family demands
- Young adults from disadvantaged and difficult backgrounds
- Incarceration rates of high school drop-outs
- Career navigators
- Local partnerships
- Investing in youths who have left high school without a diploma

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon law establishes a Youth Development Division within the Department of Education to provide services to school-age children and youth up to 24 years of age to support educational success, focus on crime prevention, and reduce high-risk behaviors. According to YDD, 17,506 Oregon youths age 16 to 21 do not have a high school diploma or GED and are not enrolled in school. Senate Bill 692 directs YDD to establish a statewide youth reengagment system that will allow students who have dropped out of high school to receive mentorship and to earn credits toward graduation or career readiness. The bill also requires ODE to adjust school accountability systems to remove disincentives to offering reengagement programs.