

SB 157 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 3/18, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to administer nationally recognized high school assessment. Requires assessment to be administered in multiple states and recognized by post-secondary institutions. Allows school districts to substitute national assessments for statewide summative assessments related to mathematics or English. Takes effect July 1, 2020.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Opting out of assessments
- Lack of relevance of current high-school assessment
- Use of the SAT for high school assessment in other states
- Increased awareness of college options
- Equity issues
- Nationally normed assessments
- Accountability measures
- Testing time
- Federal requirements
- Accommodations
- College entrance exams
- Role of school districts
- College readiness

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to contract with a nonprofit entity to administer nationally recognized high school assessments for mathematics and English. Requires ODE to conduct a competitive bidding process prior to entering into contract. Removes provisions permitting school districts to decline to implement statewide assessment if students take the nationally recognized assessment. Removes requirement for assessment to satisfy federal laws related to adequate yearly progress. Provides that requirements first apply to the 2020-2021 school year.

BACKGROUND:

In 2001, Congress enacted the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), requiring testing of all students in third through eighth grade with statewide summative assessments. In 2015, President Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which amended NCLB. ESSA allows states some flexibility concerning assessment practices. Currently, students in Oregon take the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) summative assessments in mathematics and English language arts at the end of each school year from third grade through eighth grade and once in high school. The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and American College Testing (ACT) are examples of nationally recognized academic assessments that are also used for entrance into post-secondary institutions. SB 157 requires ODE to contract with a nonprofit entity to administer a nationally recognized assessment to meet Oregon's high-school assessment requirement.

PRELIMINARY