

HB 2892 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Heard

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 05/15/19

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Gelser, Hass, Heard, Thomsen, Wagner

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Tamara Dykeman, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/17, 5/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires school districts and public charter schools to allow a student to wear a military dress uniform at high school graduation ceremony. Requires student wearing military uniform at a graduation to be qualified to receive a high school diploma or alternative certificate and to have completed basic training for, and be an active member of, a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. Applies to high school graduation ceremonies occurring on or after effective date of act. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Stories of students not being able to wear their uniforms at graduations
- Cultural exceptions for graduation dress
- Challenges with determining what are permitted exceptions to graduation dress
- Students who complete basic training prior to graduation date
- Need for statutory exception for military dress uniforms
- Need to honor and celebrate military service

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Under current law, Oregon school districts may determine appropriate dress for students at graduation ceremonies. Appropriate dress may include requiring military uniforms to be worn under graduation robes, which may be in violation of military rules. Other states have passed legislation to allow students to wear military uniforms at graduation, including California, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. House Bill 2892 permits an Oregon student to wear a military dress uniform at a graduation ceremony if the student has completed basic training, is an active member in a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces, and has qualified to receive a diploma or alternative certificate.