

SB 1572 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 2/6, 2/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes statutory graduation requirements for high school diploma, adding three credits of science; three credits of history, geography, economics, or civics; one credit of health; one credit of physical education; and three credits of either career and technical education, the arts, or a world language to existing statutory requirement that students take three credits of mathematics and four credits of English. Removes authority of State Board of Education (SBE) to enact additional graduation requirements. Requires SBE to provide guidance to school districts on additional district graduation requirements. Requires SBE to recommend process for school districts to issue diplomas retroactively to students who passed all required coursework but did not receive a diploma due to graduation requirements that no longer exist. Applies to high school diplomas awarded on or after July 1, 2021.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- High school graduation requirements
- Essential Skills requirements
- Administrative rules
- Provisions of the measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 Replaces measure. Establishes Task Force on High School Diploma Requirements. Establishes task force membership, responsibilities, and reporting requirements.

BACKGROUND:

State law currently establishes only a portion of the requirements for a high school diploma (math and English language arts credits). The remaining credit requirements, along with additional requirements such as nine essential skills, education plans, and education profiles, currently exist in Oregon Administrative Rule 581-022-2000. Senate Bill 1572 takes the coursework credit requirements that had previously existed in rule and adds them to the Oregon Revised Statutes, alongside existing math and English language arts credit requirements. The measure eliminates the authority of the State Board of Education to enact additional requirements beyond the course credits established in statute, thereby eliminating all non-coursework requirements.