

HB 2056 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 4/21, 5/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Repeals statutory requirement that students take four credits of English to graduate high school. Replaces it with a requirement that students take four credits of language arts. Repeals statutory definition of English courses. Establishes statutory definition of language arts courses to include reading, writing, and other communications in any language. Expands definition of world language to include any language other than a student's native language. Repeals statutory requirement that instruction in all subjects in public, private, and parochial schools shall be conducted primarily in English.

House vote: Passed. Ayes, 45; Nays, 12--Bonham, Boshart Davis, Breese-Iverson, Cate, Drazan, Levy, Lewis, Moore-Green, Nearman, Post, Reschke, Zika; Excused, 3--Clem, Hernandez, Wallan.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Modifies definition of world languages.

No fiscal impact.

No revenue impact.

BACKGROUND:

In the 2018-2019 school year, the most recent year for which data is available, Oregon had 53,559 English language learners enrolled. This equates to 9.24 percent of Oregon's K-12 students. The most commonly spoken languages among Oregon's English language learners include Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, Chinese, Arabic, Somali, and Korean. House Bill 2056 would allow these students to fulfill graduation requirements by taking language arts classes in their native languages.