

SB 768 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 3/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Department of Education to conduct study to determine feasibility of collecting student course grade history in grades 6 through 12. Establishes reporting requirements. Repeals study requirement January 2, 2025.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces the measure. Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, requires Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to collect course-level completion and grade data for students in grades 6 through 12. Requires ODE to use data to study equity of opportunity in public education, barriers to high school graduation, and challenges experienced by students who transfer from one school to another. Requires inclusion of information in the annual statewide report card. Establishes Task Force on High School Transcripts. Establishes task force membership requirements and duties. Requires task force to develop recommendations for streamlining transfer of course completion data for students who transfer from one school to another and recommendations for a direct admissions policy for community colleges and public universities. Requires task force to study unified student information system for K-12 schools. Requires task force to submit report to Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2024. Requires Higher Education Coordinating Commission to provide staff support to task force, with assistance from ODE. Repeals task force on December 31, 2024. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, data on student coursework and completion is collected at the school district level, but is not reported to the Oregon Department of Education. This lack of data at the statewide level limits the state's ability to understand the opportunity gaps among schools as well as key barriers to high school graduation. Additionally, because each school district selects its own student information system, students who transfer from one school to another often must have their course completion data hand-entered by the receiving school. And, because Oregon's K-12 schools lack a comprehensive and unified electronic transcript system, the state's higher education institutions are limited in their ability to do outreach to students who may be qualified to matriculate.

Senate Bill 768's -1 amendment requires the Oregon Department of Education to collect course-level completion data for grades 6 through 12, study that data, and publish information in the annual statewide report card. The measure also establishes a task force to make recommendations regarding a statewide student information system and a direct admissions policy for Oregon's higher education institutions.