

HB 2905 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/25, 5/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Adds requirement that academic content standards for history, geography, economics, and civics include instruction on individuals who are of Jewish descent. Requires adopted textbooks and instructional materials to adequately address the contributions of men and women of Jewish descent.

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

HOUSE VOTE: Passed. Ayes, 59; Excused, 1.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Contributions of Jewish Oregonians
- Delineation between Jews and persons of Middle Eastern descent

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 329.045 requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to review and revise its Common Curriculum Goals, performance indicators, and diploma requirements to include rigorous academic content standards. Oregon law requires school districts and public charter schools to provide instruction that meets these standards. House Bill 2023, enacted in 2019, requires SBE to ensure that academic content standards include sufficient instruction on histories, contributions, and perspectives of certain classifications of individuals. It also directs school districts to offer instruction that meets the academic content standards; the Oregon Department of Education to provide professional development to teachers and administrators related to the new requirements; and school districts, SBE, and textbook committees or officers to adopt textbooks and other materials that adequately address the roles in and contributions of certain classifications of individuals. The bill aligns the implementation dates for the new requirements with SBE's regular adoption cycle for standards, textbooks, and materials.

House Bill 2905 adds individuals of Jewish descent to the required classifications of individuals enacted in 2019.