

SB 3 A -A5 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

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Meeting Dates: 5/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Senate Bill 3 A requires students to complete one half-credit of higher education and career path skills and one half-credit of personal financial education to obtain their high school diplomas. The measure defines “higher education and career path skills” and “personal financial education” for the purpose of establishing academic content standards. The State Board of Education must adopt academic content standards for higher education and career path skills and for personal financial education, which school districts, public charter schools, and education service districts must incorporate into their curricula. The measure also repeals a statutory provision that encourages school districts and public charter schools to offer courses in civics and financial literacy.

The measure takes effect on January 1, 2024, and it applies to high school diplomas awarded on or after January 1, 2027, when the new academic content standards become operative. School districts, public charter schools, and education service districts may request a waiver of the new credit requirements if they are unable to provide the necessary courses due to a lack of qualified educators. A waiver is valid for one school year only, after which the new academic content standards apply to high school diplomas awarded on or after January 1, 2028.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fiscal impact of the measure

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A5 The -A5 amendment appropriates \$426,367 General Fund to the Oregon Department of Education in the 2023-25 biennium for developing academic content standards in higher education and career path skills and in personal financial education. To that end, the department plans to form a 20-member content panel; convene a 10-member instructional materials panel; enter a professional services contract with a contractor to further develop and design the instructional materials; and hire one permanent, full-time Program Analyst 3 position (0.92 FTE) to facilitate the content panels, conduct community and stakeholder outreach, support the instructional materials review process, and provide technical assistance and training to schools and school districts.

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 744 (2021) directed the Oregon Department of Education to study high school graduation requirements and submit a report with recommendations for possible changes to interim legislative committees related to education and the State Board of Education. The report, which the department issued on September 1, 2022, recommended adding a future planning credit requirement for high school graduation. Senate Bill 3 A seeks to implement the recommendations of that report by adding a half-credit higher education and career path skills requirement and a half-credit personal financial education requirement to the statutory list of credits required for high school graduation.