

SB 768 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 04/04/23

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

Vote: 6-1-0-0

Yeas: 6 - Anderson, Dembrow, Frederick, Gelsner Blouin, President Wagner, Weber

Nays: 1 - Robinson

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/23, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to collect course-level completion and grade data for students in grades 6 through 12 beginning in the 2023-2024 school year. 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 consult with parents of students who received modified and extended diploma and with higher education faculty. 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. Sunsets task force on December 31, 2024. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of understanding students' educational journeys
- Benefit of being able to study additional data
- Reporting burden on school administrators
- Benefits of statewide student information system
- Potential for direct admissions policy to lower barriers to higher education

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

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. Furthermore, 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 A 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

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establishes a task force to make recommendations regarding a statewide student information system and a direct admissions policy for Oregon's higher education institutions.