

HB 3068 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Dembrow

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 05/18/23

Action: Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.)

Vote: 6-0-0-1

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

Abs: 1 - Robinson

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 5/2, 5/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Department of Education to study the possibility of creating a high school equivalency diploma. Requires report to Legislative Assembly by December 31, 2024. Sunsets January 2, 2025. Allows students aged 16 or 17 to take high school equivalency test with parent's permission. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Age of students who can take an equivalency test
- North Dakota's equivalency diploma
- Number of students in Oregon who are graduates, completers, and who have taken an equivalency test
- Need for more information
- Role of State Board of Education

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

In 2008, the U.S. Department of Education began requiring states to use a single formula to calculate the four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate (four-year ACGR). ACGR tracks the progress of a group of ninth-grade students through high school and to graduation with a regular high school diploma. For the 2021-2022 school year, Oregon's four-year ACGR was 81.34 percent. As part of the calculation requirement, states may not count students who earn an equivalency credential as having graduated with a regular diploma. They are instead counted as "completers," and a state's completer rate is reported separately from its graduation rate. Oregon's four-year completer rate for the 2021-2022 school year was 83.78 percent.

House Bill 3068 B directs the Oregon Department of Education to study the possibility of creating a high school equivalency diploma and report to the Legislative Assembly by December 31, 2024.