



To: House Committee on Rules
From: Richard Donovan, Legislative Services Specialist
Re: Senate Bill 1522A
Date: February 25, 2020

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Chair Holvey, Vice Chairs Smith Warner and Drazen, and members of the committee:

On behalf of OSBA membership, including 197 school districts, 19 Education Service Districts, and 17 community colleges throughout the state of Oregon, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 1522A.

In 2019, OSBA worked with a number of education stakeholders to help secure the passage of SB 155, which addressed the scourge of sexual conduct in our schools. That bill closed statutory loopholes and required inter-agency collaboration and information sharing to protect students.

This session, that same stakeholder coalition worked to draft SB 1522A. The bill would make necessary updates to statutes to enable school districts to effectively operationalize SB 155. Two specific changes include: expanded protections for educators who discuss topics of a sexual nature in the limited cases where such discussion is a necessary part of state educational standards; and, ensuring the legality of appropriate information sharing between agencies in order to properly investigate reports of potential sexual conduct.

Notably, the bill was drafted with a “relating to education” clause, and it now resembles omnibus bills that the Senate Education Committee has drafted in previous short sessions. The bill contains targeted technical fixes that include, but are not limited to: updates to permit charter school employees to draw benefits they accrued appropriately; the addition of Education Service District board members to the statutory list of mandatory reporters; and a technical fix to the implementation timeline for physical education instruction requirements.

The introduced version of this bill contained more changes to statutes defining sexual conduct. After feedback from legislators and stakeholders, those changes are not part of the A-engrossed measure. SB 1522A is a necessary bill and we ask for your support of the measure.