

Senate Bill 1522

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SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Modifies definitions of "sexual conduct" and "student" for purposes of requirements for education providers related to abuse of and sexual conduct toward students.

Modifies confidentiality requirements related to documents, materials and reports produced by Teacher Standards and Practices Commission when conducting investigation related to licensed school employee, contractor, agent or volunteer.

Requires members of education service district board to be mandatory reporters of abuse of children.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to education; creating new provisions; amending ORS 339.370, 339.390 and 419B.005; and
3 declaring an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 339.370 is amended to read:

6 339.370. As used in ORS 339.370 to 339.400:

7 (1) "Abuse" has the meaning given that term in ORS 419B.005.

8 (2) "Agent" means a person acting as an agent for an education provider in a manner that re-
9 quires the person to have direct, unsupervised contact with students.

10 (3) "Contractor" means a person providing services to an education provider under a contract
11 in a manner that requires the person to have direct, unsupervised contact with students.

12 (4)(a) "Education provider" means:

13 (A) A school district, as defined in ORS 332.002.

14 (B) The Oregon School for the Deaf.

15 (C) An educational program under the Youth Corrections Education Program.

16 (D) A public charter school, as defined in ORS 338.005.

17 (E) An education service district, as defined in ORS 334.003.

18 (F) Any state-operated program that provides educational services to students.

19 (G) A private school.

20 (b) "Education provider" does not include:

21 (A) The Oregon Youth Authority;

22 (B) The Department of Corrections; or

23 (C) The Department of Education, except when functioning as an education provider on behalf

24 of:

25 (i) The Oregon School for the Deaf;

26 (ii) An educational program under the Youth Corrections Education Program; or

27 (iii) A public charter school, as defined in ORS 338.005, that is sponsored by the Department of

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 Education.

2 (5) "Investigation" means a detailed inquiry into the factual allegations of a report of suspected
3 abuse or suspected sexual conduct that:

4 (a) Is based on interviews with the person who initiated the report, the person who may have
5 been subjected to abuse or sexual conduct, witnesses and the person who is the subject of the re-
6 port; and

7 (b) Results in a finding that the report:

8 (A) Is a substantiated report;

9 (B) Cannot be substantiated; or

10 (C) Is not a report of abuse or sexual conduct.

11 (6) "Law enforcement agency" has the meaning given that term in ORS 419B.005.

12 (7) "License" includes a license, registration or certificate issued by the Teacher Standards and
13 Practices Commission.

14 (8) "Private school" means a school that provides to students instructional programs that are
15 not limited solely to dancing, drama, music, religious or athletic instruction.

16 (9) "School board" means the entity charged with adopting policies for an education provider.

17 (10) "School employee" means an employee of an education provider.

18 (11)(a) "Sexual conduct" means verbal or physical conduct or verbal, written or electronic
19 communications by a school employee, a contractor, an agent or a volunteer that involve a student
20 and that are:

21 (A) Sexual advances or requests for sexual favors directed toward the student; or

22 (B) Of a sexual nature that are directed toward the student or that have the effect of unrea-
23 sonably interfering with the student's educational performance, or of creating an intimidating, hos-
24 tile or offensive educational environment.

25 (b) "Sexual conduct" does not include:

26 (A) **Touching or other physical contact:**

27 [(A)] (i) That is necessitated by the nature of the school employee's job duties or by the services
28 required to be provided by the contractor, agent or volunteer; and

29 [(B)] (ii) For which there is no sexual intent.

30 (B) **Verbal, written or electronic communications that are provided:**

31 (i) **As part of an education program that meets state educational standards or a policy**
32 **approved by the school board; or**

33 (ii) **In response to a student request for counseling or for other assistance in resolving**
34 **personal problems or answering personal questions as long as:**

35 (I) **There is no sexual intent; and**

36 (II) **The response is not prohibited by law, any policies of the education provider or any**
37 **applicable employment agreements.**

38 (C) **Conduct or communications described in paragraph (a) of this subsection if:**

39 (i) **The school employee, contractor, agent or volunteer is also a student; and**

40 (ii) **The conduct or communications:**

41 (I) **Would not be a sexual offense under ORS 163.305 to 163.467, 163.472 or 163.665 to**
42 **163.693; or**

43 (II) **Would be a sexual offense under ORS 163.305 to 163.467, 163.472 or 163.665 to 163.693**
44 **but the school employee, contractor, agent or volunteer may use a defense described in ORS**
45 **163.325 or 163.345.**

1 (12) “Student” means any person:

2 (a) Who is:

3 (A) In any grade from prekindergarten through grade 12; or

4 (B) Twenty-one years of age or younger and receiving educational or related services from an
5 education provider that is not a post-secondary institution of education; or

6 (b) Who was previously known as a student by the person engaging in sexual conduct and who
7 left school or graduated from high school within 90 days prior to the sexual conduct.

8 (13) “Substantiated report” means a report of abuse or sexual conduct that a law enforcement
9 agency, the Department of Human Services, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission, the
10 Department of Education or an education provider has reasonable cause to believe, based on the
11 available evidence after conducting an investigation, is founded.

12 (14) “Volunteer” means a person acting as a volunteer for an education provider in a manner
13 that requires the person to have direct, unsupervised contact with students.

14 **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 339.370 by section 1 of this 2020 Act apply to con-**
15 **duct that occurs before, on or after the effective date of this 2020 Act for purposes of:**

16 (1) **Reports of suspected sexual conduct that are made on or after the effective date of**
17 **this 2020 Act.**

18 (2) **Investigations of suspected sexual conduct that are initiated on or after the effective**
19 **date of this 2020 Act.**

20 (3) **A collective bargaining agreement, an employment contract, an agreement for resig-**
21 **nation or termination, a severance agreement or any similar contract or agreement entered**
22 **into on or after the effective date of this 2020 Act.**

23 **SECTION 3.** ORS 339.390 is amended to read:

24 339.390. (1)(a) When the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission receives a report of sus-
25 pected sexual conduct that may have been committed by a licensed school employee, contractor,
26 agent or volunteer, the commission shall immediately initiate an investigation.

27 (b) An investigation and final determination related to a report received under paragraph (a)
28 of this subsection must be completed and notification of the final determination must be made to the
29 education provider within 90 calendar days following the date on which the report was filed with
30 the commission.

31 (c) Notwithstanding paragraph (b) of this subsection, the prescribed timeline for an investigation
32 and final determination may be extended if, for good cause, a longer period of time is necessary.

33 (2) The commission shall appoint an investigator and shall furnish the investigator with appro-
34 priate professional and other special assistance reasonably required to conduct an investigation. An
35 investigator appointed under this subsection is empowered to:

36 (a) Issue subpoenas to require the attendance of witnesses or the production of documents;

37 (b) Subpoena witnesses; and

38 (c) Swear witnesses and compel obedience in the same manner as provided under ORS 183.440
39 (2).

40 (3)(a) Following the completion of an investigation, the investigator shall report in writing any
41 findings and recommendations to the executive director of the Teacher Standards and Practices
42 Commission.

43 (b) If, based on the findings, the executive director believes there is an immediate threat to a
44 student, the executive director shall request that the commission meet in executive session.

45 (4) The executive director or the investigator shall report in writing the findings and any rec-

1 ommendations to the commission. The commission shall decide if there is sufficient cause to justify
2 holding a hearing under ORS 342.177.

3 (5) If the commission finds that there is sufficient cause to justify holding a hearing under ORS
4 342.177, the commission shall notify in writing:

5 (a) The person charged, enclosing a statement of the charges and a notice of opportunity for
6 hearing;

7 (b) The student and, if applicable, the student's parents;

8 (c) The education provider; and

9 (d) The person who provided the report of suspected sexual conduct.

10 (6) If the commission finds that there is not sufficient cause to justify holding a hearing under
11 ORS 342.177, the commission shall notify in writing:

12 (a) The person charged;

13 (b) The student and, if applicable, the student's parents;

14 (c) The education provider; and

15 (d) The person who provided the report of suspected sexual conduct.

16 (7)(a) *[Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection,]* The documents and materials used
17 in the investigation undertaken under this section, and the report related to the investigation, are
18 confidential and not subject to public inspection:

19 (A) Unless the commission makes a final determination to suspend or revoke a license, disci-
20 pline a person holding a license or revoke the right to apply for a license, as provided under ORS
21 342.175.

22 (B) **Except as provided by paragraphs (b) to (d) of this subsection.**

23 (b) **Documents, materials and reports that are confidential under paragraph (a) of this**
24 **subsection may be disclosed to an entity listed in paragraph (c) or (d) of this subsection only**
25 **as provided by this subsection and rules adopted by the commission. The entity that receives**
26 **documents, materials or reports must maintain their confidentiality unless disclosure is al-**
27 **lowed or required under this section or other state or federal law.**

28 *[(b)]* (c) To the extent allowed by state and federal law, the commission shall make available
29 any documents, materials and reports **that are confidential under paragraph (a) of this sub-**
30 **section to:**

31 (A) A law enforcement agency or the Department of Human Services for the purpose of con-
32 ducting an investigation under ORS 419B.005 to 419B.050; **or**

33 (B) The Department of Education for the purpose of conducting an investigation under ORS
34 339.391[; *or*].

35 *[(C)]* (d)(A) **The commission shall make available the commission's investigative report**
36 **to:**

37 (i) An education provider for the purpose of **the education provider** taking any disciplinary
38 actions or making changes in the employment relationship or duties of the school employee, con-
39 tractor, agent or volunteer[.]; **and**

40 (ii) **The school employee, contractor, agent or volunteer who is the subject of the report.**

41 (B) **The commission must redact the executive director's recommendation from the re-**
42 **port made available under this paragraph.**

43 (C) **A school employee, contractor, agent or volunteer who receives a report under this**
44 **paragraph may share the report with the person's attorney or union representative. An at-**
45 **torney or union representative who receives a report under this subparagraph must maintain**

1 **the report's confidentiality unless disclosure is allowed or required under this section or**
 2 **other state or federal law.**

3 [(c)] (e) The commission shall retain documents and materials related to any report received
 4 under this section, regardless of whether the commission found sufficient cause to justify holding a
 5 hearing under this section.

6 (8) Notwithstanding ORS 192.660 (6), the commission may make its findings under this section
 7 in executive session. The provisions of ORS 192.660 (4) apply to executive sessions held pursuant to
 8 this subsection.

9 (9) The commission shall adopt any rules necessary for the administration of this section, in-
 10 cluding a process to appeal the findings of the commission under this section.

11 **SECTION 4.** ORS 419B.005 is amended to read:

12 419B.005. As used in ORS 419B.005 to 419B.050, unless the context requires otherwise:

13 (1)(a) "Abuse" means:

14 (A) Any assault, as defined in ORS chapter 163, of a child and any physical injury to a child
 15 which has been caused by other than accidental means, including any injury which appears to be
 16 at variance with the explanation given of the injury.

17 (B) Any mental injury to a child, which shall include only observable and substantial impairment
 18 of the child's mental or psychological ability to function caused by cruelty to the child, with due
 19 regard to the culture of the child.

20 (C) Rape of a child, which includes but is not limited to rape, sodomy, unlawful sexual pene-
 21 tration and incest, as those acts are described in ORS chapter 163.

22 (D) Sexual abuse, as described in ORS chapter 163.

23 (E) Sexual exploitation, including but not limited to:

24 (i) Contributing to the sexual delinquency of a minor, as defined in ORS chapter 163, and any
 25 other conduct which allows, employs, authorizes, permits, induces or encourages a child to engage
 26 in the performing for people to observe or the photographing, filming, tape recording or other ex-
 27 hibition which, in whole or in part, depicts sexual conduct or contact, as defined in ORS 167.002 or
 28 described in ORS 163.665 and 163.670, sexual abuse involving a child or rape of a child, but not in-
 29 cluding any conduct which is part of any investigation conducted pursuant to ORS 419B.020 or
 30 which is designed to serve educational or other legitimate purposes; and

31 (ii) Allowing, permitting, encouraging or hiring a child to engage in prostitution as described in
 32 ORS 167.007 or a commercial sex act as defined in ORS 163.266, to purchase sex with a minor as
 33 described in ORS 163.413 or to engage in commercial sexual solicitation as described in ORS 167.008.

34 (F) Negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child, including but not limited to the failure to
 35 provide adequate food, clothing, shelter or medical care that is likely to endanger the health or
 36 welfare of the child.

37 (G) Threatened harm to a child, which means subjecting a child to a substantial risk of harm
 38 to the child's health or welfare.

39 (H) Buying or selling a person under 18 years of age as described in ORS 163.537.

40 (I) Permitting a person under 18 years of age to enter or remain in or upon premises where
 41 methamphetamines are being manufactured.

42 (J) Unlawful exposure to a controlled substance, as defined in ORS 475.005, or to the unlawful
 43 manufacturing of a cannabinoid extract, as defined in ORS 475B.015, that subjects a child to a sub-
 44 stantial risk of harm to the child's health or safety.

45 (b) "Abuse" does not include reasonable discipline unless the discipline results in one of the

1 conditions described in paragraph (a) of this subsection.

2 (2) "Child" means an unmarried person who:

3 (a) Is under 18 years of age; or

4 (b) Is under 21 years of age and residing in or receiving care or services at a child-caring
5 agency as that term is defined in ORS 418.205.

6 (3) "Higher education institution" means:

7 (a) A community college as defined in ORS 341.005;

8 (b) A public university listed in ORS 352.002;

9 (c) The Oregon Health and Science University; and

10 (d) A private institution of higher education located in Oregon.

11 (4)(a) "Investigation" means a detailed inquiry into or assessment of the safety of a child alleged
12 to have experienced abuse.

13 (b) "Investigation" does not include screening activities conducted upon the receipt of a report.

14 (5) "Law enforcement agency" means:

15 (a) A city or municipal police department.

16 (b) A county sheriff's office.

17 (c) The Oregon State Police.

18 (d) A police department established by a university under ORS 352.121 or 353.125.

19 (e) A county juvenile department.

20 (6) "Public or private official" means:

21 (a) Physician or physician assistant licensed under ORS chapter 677 or naturopathic physician,
22 including any intern or resident.

23 (b) Dentist.

24 (c) School employee, including an employee of a higher education institution.

25 (d) Licensed practical nurse, registered nurse, nurse practitioner, nurse's aide, home health aide
26 or employee of an in-home health service.

27 (e) Employee of the Department of Human Services, Oregon Health Authority, Early Learning
28 Division, Department of Education, Youth Development Division, Office of Child Care, the Oregon
29 Youth Authority, a local health department, a community mental health program, a community de-
30 velopmental disabilities program, a county juvenile department, a child-caring agency as that term
31 is defined in ORS 418.205 or an alcohol and drug treatment program.

32 (f) Peace officer.

33 (g) Psychologist.

34 (h) Member of the clergy.

35 (i) Regulated social worker.

36 (j) Optometrist.

37 (k) Chiropractor.

38 (L) Certified provider of foster care, or an employee thereof.

39 (m) Attorney.

40 (n) Licensed professional counselor.

41 (o) Licensed marriage and family therapist.

42 (p) Firefighter or emergency medical services provider.

43 (q) A court appointed special advocate, as defined in ORS 419A.004.

44 (r) A child care provider registered or certified under ORS 329A.030 and 329A.250 to 329A.450.

45 (s) Member of the Legislative Assembly.

- 1 (t) Physical, speech or occupational therapist.
- 2 (u) Audiologist.
- 3 (v) Speech-language pathologist.
- 4 (w) Employee of the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission directly involved in investi-
5 gations or discipline by the commission.
- 6 (x) Pharmacist.
- 7 (y) An operator of a preschool recorded program under ORS 329A.255.
- 8 (z) An operator of a school-age recorded program under ORS 329A.257.
- 9 (aa) Employee of a private agency or organization facilitating the provision of respite services,
10 as defined in ORS 418.205, for parents pursuant to a properly executed power of attorney under ORS
11 109.056.
- 12 (bb) Employee of a public or private organization providing child-related services or activities:
13 (A) Including but not limited to youth groups or centers, scout groups or camps, summer or day
14 camps, survival camps or groups, centers or camps that are operated under the guidance, super-
15 vision or auspices of religious, public or private educational systems or community service organ-
16 izations; and
17 (B) Excluding community-based, nonprofit organizations whose primary purpose is to provide
18 confidential, direct services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or human traf-
19 ficking.
- 20 (cc) A coach, assistant coach or trainer of an amateur, semiprofessional or professional athlete,
21 if compensated and if the athlete is a child.
- 22 (dd) Personal support worker, as defined in ORS 410.600.
- 23 (ee) Home care worker, as defined in ORS 410.600.
- 24 (ff) Animal control officer, as defined in ORS 609.500.
- 25 (gg) Member of a school district board [or], **an education service district board or a public**
26 **charter school governing body.**
- 27 (hh) An individual who is paid by a public body, in accordance with ORS 430.215, to provide a
28 service identified in an individualized written service plan of a child with a developmental disability.

29 **SECTION 5. The amendments to ORS 419B.005 by section 4 of this 2020 Act become op-**
30 **erative on January 1, 2021.**

31 **SECTION 6. This 2020 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
32 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2020 Act takes effect**
33 **on its passage.**

34