

HB 2697 -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 3/2, 3/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires education providers to establish policies prohibiting the use or display of symbols of hate on school property or in education programs. Defines terms. Provides exception for symbols displayed in alignment with statewide educational content standards. Establishes policy requirements. Requires education providers to investigate bias incidents and to develop instructional materials related to policy.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Effect of hate symbols on students and staff
- Benefits of inclusive school environments
- Administrative rules related to hate symbols

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-4 Replaces the measure. Requires education providers to prohibit the use or display of nooses, symbols of neo-Nazi ideology, or the battle flag of the Confederacy on school property or in an education program. Establishes exception for displays that align with statewide academic content standards. Requires education providers to adopt policies and establishes policy requirements. Requires education providers to investigate bias incidents. Establishes noncompliance as violation of discrimination in education statute codified in ORS 659.850 *et seq.* Establishes sanctions for noncompliance, including possible loss of state funding.

BACKGROUND:

In September, 2020 the State Board of Education adopted Oregon Administrative Rule 58-022-2312. The rule requires education providers to adopt policies that prohibit the use or display of hate symbols on school grounds or in any program, service, school, or activity financed at least partially by state funds and establishes requirements for providers to respond to bias incidents. House Bill 2697 enacts similar requirements into law.