

# Senate Bill 155 (2019)

Legislative History and Major Provisions



# Timeline

**December, 2015**  
Passage of Every Student Succeeds Act

**February, 2018**  
Introduction of HB 4119, regulating school personnel files

**Spring-Summer 2018**  
Senator Roblan convenes stakeholders & House Ed Committee work group on HB 4119

**September, 2019**  
Senate Education Committee requests bill

**January, 2020**  
TSPC begins implementation

**September, 2016**  
*Oregonian* publishes investigative report into Mitchell Whitehurst

**May, 2018**  
Portland Public Schools completes investigation into Mitchell Whitehurst, requests legislative changes

**August, 2018**  
LC Opinion requested by Senator Roblan is issued

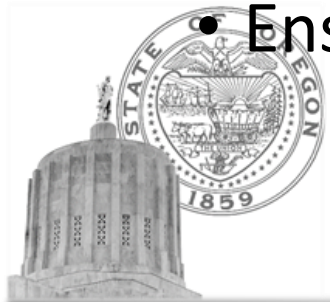
**July, 2019**  
Governor signs SB 155

**July, 2020**  
ODE begins implementation



# SB 155 (2019): Overall Design Goals

- Prioritize safety of students
- Align with federal law regarding staff, contractors, agents, and volunteers
- Make it easier for districts to remove staff who exhibit inappropriate behavior
- Ensure that those conducting investigations are knowledgeable and qualified to do so
- Interview victims as few times as possible
- Ensure accurate record-keeping of sexual conduct complaints



# SB 155 (2019): Overall Design Elements

- Ensure immediate administrative leave to protect students
- Centralize investigative responsibility with the state
- Separate responsibility for investigating from responsibility for making employment decisions
  - Allow districts to rely on state investigative results to make employment determinations
- Decrease timeframe for investigations
- Clear definition, reporting chains, and standards for staff



# SB 155 (2019): Major K-12 Provisions

- Modify definition of sexual conduct
- Require TSPC to complete investigations within 90 days
- Give to ODE responsibility for investigating unlicensed staff, agents, contractors, or volunteers and require investigations to be complete within 90 days
- Allow state agencies to share investigative results with school districts
- Require licensed administrators to receive reports



# SB 155 (2019): Major K-12 Provisions

- Require accused employees be placed on administrative leave until investigation and employment determination are complete
- Require cross-notifications among DHS, education agencies, and law enforcement
- Require school districts to establish policies for appropriate electronic communication between staff and students
- Modify prohibition on termination or resignation agreements that impair or suppress abuse or sexual conduct investigations.



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Questions?

