

SB 1521 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/1, 2/3, 2/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes job protections for school district superintendents. Establishes conditions that must be met to terminate superintendents without cause. Protects superintendents from termination for complying with state or federal law. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Benefits of superintendent stability
- Authority of school boards

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon's education statutes provide local control to school districts, within the context of the Legislative Assembly's authority over statewide policy and the delegation of authority to the State Board of Education. [ORS 332.075 \(2021\)](#) establishes the powers of locally elected school boards. One of the central responsibilities of locally elected school boards is that of hiring district superintendents, who generally are hired via contract for a specified number of years. During 2021, several superintendents in Oregon were terminated prior to the end of their contracts by local school boards, including in the Greater Albany Public School district and in the Adrian School District. Senate Bill 1521 establishes certain job protections for school district superintendents.