

## SB 1521 -3, -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### House Committee On Education

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**Prepared By:** Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/15

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#### **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.

*FISCAL: No fiscal impact*

*REVENUE: No revenue impact*

*Senate: Third reading. Carried by Dembrow. Passed. Ayes, 16; Nays, 7.*

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Benefits of superintendent stability
- Authority of school boards

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-3 Reduces notification period from 12 months to six months. Modifies definition of state or federal law to include state or federal directives having the force of law, such as statutes, court decisions, administrative rules issued in compliance with state law and federal regulations issued in compliance with federal law. Excludes interpretive rules, general statements of policy or guidance documents not having the force of law.

-4 Reduces notification period from 12 months to six months. Modifies definition of state or federal law to include statutes; court decisions; administrative rules; regulations; orders issued in compliance with ORS chapter 183; executive orders; or other directives, declarations, or statements issued in compliance with the law that have the force of law.

#### **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 to hire district superintendents, who generally are hired via contract for a specified number of years. During 2021, several local school boards terminated superintendents prior to the end of their contracts, 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.