

SB 1521 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Owens

House Committee On Education

Minority Report

Action Date: 02/22/22

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.) Minority

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Report Signers: Rep. Mark Owens, Rep. Jessica George, Rep. Suzanne Weber, Rep. Boomer Wright

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/15, 2/17, 2/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Prohibits school boards from directing superintendent to take any action that conflicts with state or federal law, taking adverse employment action against superintendent for complying with state or federal law, or employing superintendent under contract that conflicts with those requirements. Defines state or federal law as a state or federal directive having the force of law, including statutes, court decisions, administrative rules or regulations, orders issued in compliance with ORS chapter 183, executive orders, or other directives, declarations, or statements issued in compliance with the law as having the force of law. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Benefits of superintendent stability
- Authority of school boards
- Jurisdictions of local, state, and federal governments

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

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 MRA establishes certain job protections for school district superintendents.