

SB 275 -1, -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 3/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires the Oregon Department of Education, Teacher Standards and Practices Commission, and Educator Advancement Council to study the best means of improving alignment among state education agencies.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Transfers duties, functions, and powers of Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) staff to the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). Continues TSPC to adopt rules and impose discipline on licensees. Transfers duties of TSPC director to Superintendent of Public Instruction. Repeals intergovernmental agreement requirement for operation of Educator Advancement Council (EAC) and requires ODE to establish and support EAC. Requires State Board of Education, taking into consideration recommendations of the TSPC and EAC, to adopt rules for approval of educator preparation programs and standards for nontraditional licensure pathways. Becomes operative July 1, 2025. Allows executive branch to take any action necessary before operative date for transfer to take place on operative date. Requires TSPC, State Board of Education, ODE, and EAC to make a plan and report to the legislature on progress of transfer. Declares emergency, takes effect July 1, 2023.

-4 Repeals changes made to Educator Advancement Council by House Bill 2166 (2021). Directs Oregon Department of Education and Teacher Standards and Practices Commission to consult with Educator Advancement Council to determine whether to merge Commission into Department. Requires identification of roles of each entity, methods for improving alignment and coordination, structures to decrease or hold steady fees charged for licensure, benefits and drawbacks of merger, and steps necessary to implement merger. Requires presentation of findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly by December 31, 2024. Repeals study on January 2, 2025. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

BACKGROUND:

The Teacher Standards and Practices Commission was established in 1965. Prior to that time, the State Board of Education oversaw licensing of teachers and Oregon had a separate commission on teacher tenure. Originally, TSPC was responsible for conducting a study and making recommendations to the State Board, and was staffed by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). Changes to the law in 1973 allowed TSPC to hire its own staff, including an executive secretary. In 1997, the law changed again, allowing TSPC to hire an executive director. TSPC consists of a 17-member commission supported by 31 FTE staff. The agency is responsible for issuing licenses, approving educator preparation programs, approving nontraditional pathways to licensure, approving professional development for license renewals, and investigating misconduct. TSPC is wholly fee-funded and receives no general fund.

In 2017, the legislature enacted Senate Bill 182, establishing the Educator Advancement Council (EAC) under an intergovernmental agreement. The intergovernmental agreement was executed on March 20, 2018. Parties to the agreement were the Chief Education Office, Oregon Department of Education, Early Learning Division, Teacher

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Standards and Practices Commission, High Desert Education Service District, and Beaverton School District. Under the provisions of Senate Bill 182, parties to the agreement could appoint members to the Council. A majority of those Council members could then appoint others. Staff support was provided by the Chief Education Office until its sunset in 2019. Since that time, staff support has been provided by ODE.

EAC has an executive director and is responsible for professional development for educators, establishing and maintaining a set of Regional Educator Networks (RENs), conducting a biennial survey of the state's educators, issuing grow-your-own grants, and drafting a biennial educator equity report. EAC is supported by 14.6 FTE staff. In 2021, House Bill 2166 modified the requirements for EAC's intergovernmental agreement, allowing the Council to appoint a director who could then hire staff. However, EAC was not made a state agency.

Senate Bill 275-1 combines the staffs of TSPC and EAC into the Oregon Department of Education, leaving both appointed bodies intact and independent of the State Board of Education.