

HB 2690 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 2/1, 3/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires school districts to pay classified employees at least 10 percent more than the minimum wage, or 15 percent more for employees that support students with individualized education programs or who are enrolled in special education. Requires school districts to pay licensed, registered, or certified educators at least \$60,000 per year. Requires school districts to calculate adjustments annually. Applies to contracts entered into on or after the effective date.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Employee wages
- Cost of living
- Needs of employees

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Removes provisions relating to educators who support students with individualized education programs. Reduces minimum salary to \$50,000.

BACKGROUND:

Widespread news reports in 2021 and 2022 highlighted significant challenges among school districts in hiring staff to fill vacant positions. According to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, public school employment nationwide dropped from nearly 8.1 million in March, 2020 to 7.3 million in May, 2022. Districts in Oregon faced particular challenges in hiring specific classified staff and filling special education positions for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. House Bill 4030 (2022) appropriated over \$99 million to address key issues related to education workforce shortages.

House Bill 2690 establishes statewide minimum salaries for school staff in Oregon.