

HB 2609 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. McLain

House Committee On Education

Action Date: 03/20/23

Action: Do Pass.

Vote: 5-0-2-0

Yeas: 5 - Cramer, Hudson, Neron, Nguyen H, Valderrama

Exc: 2 - McIntire, Wright

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Ellen O'Brien, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/1, 3/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes authority for Teacher Standards and Practices Commission to charge fees to education preparation providers. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Potential for costs to be passed on to students
- Alternative funding streams for Teacher Standards and Practices Commission

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) is Oregon's licensing agency for educators and approves educator preparation programs (EPPs) that operate in Oregon. The agency is funded entirely by the fees it collects. Senate Bill 129 (2021) established new fees for educator preparation programs and education providers, and included a sunset date for the collection of those fees on January 1, 2026.

In accordance with Senate Bill 129 (2021), TSPC released a report on EPP fees on March 24, 2022. The report proposes a fee schedule for EPPs based on the number of license applications from the provider and, for schools with a number of license applications below the threshold set in rule, based on the total number of programs offered by a provider. The report also notes that TSPC voted to delay collecting fees during the 2021-2023 biennium, and that the upcoming due date for annual fees is July 1, 2023.

House Bill 2609 sunsets TSPC's authority to collect fees from education preparation providers, effective on passage.