

SB 421 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 03/30/23

Action: Do pass with amendments. Refer to Ways and Means by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng).

Vote: 6-1-0-0

Yeas: 6 - Anderson, Dembrow, Frederick, Gelsner Blouin, President Wagner, Weber

Nays: 1 - Robinson

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/28, 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to establish work group to develop standards for selecting members of youth advisory council. Establishes work group membership and responsibilities. Requires work group to begin meeting by October 31, 2023. Establishes youth advisory council with membership appointed by the Governor. Establishes consultation requirements. Requires ODE to ensure that members of youth advisory council have support, resources, access to counseling, mental health support, and tutoring; access to an adult mentor; and opportunities to provide peer support or be a youth mentor. Establishes duties of youth advisory council, including reporting and meeting requirements. Requires ODE to provide staff support to youth advisory council. Appropriates unspecified amount of General Fund to ODE for implementation. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for youth input into education policy

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Modifies membership requirements. Modifies duties of youth advisory council to replace "racist incident" with "bias incident as defined in ORS 147.380."

BACKGROUND:

In the summer of 2020, the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators (COSA) invited students of color to share their experiences of racism in Oregon schools with district and school administrators. During the open Zoom meeting, an intruder disrupted the event, using a red digital marker to cross out the photos of the student presenters. After this event, COSA, along with REAP, Inc., the Oregon Association of Student Councils, and the Oregon Association of Secondary School Administrators worked to address the students' concerns. These organizations worked with students and educators to draft House Bill 3363 A in 2021 and House Bill 4099 in 2022, which would have established a Racial Equity and Justice Student Collaborative to help student leaders shape Oregon's education system, but neither bill was enacted.

Senate Bill 421 A establishes a youth advisory council.