

HB 2609 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Anderson

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 05/11/23

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 5-0-1-1

Yeas: 5 - Anderson, Dembrow, Frederick, Gelser Blouin, Weber

Exc: 1 - President Wagner

Abs: 1 - Robinson

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Ellen O'Brien, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/9, 5/11

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 disincentive to growth for educator preparation providers and programs
- Strategies to address educator workforce shortage
- Fact that fee has never been collected
- Potential impact on students

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's budget ([House Bill 5035 \(2021\)](#)) is funded primarily by the fees it collects, with additional one-time appropriations made by the Legislative Assembly to enact new policies each biennium. [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 its [Education Preparation Provider Fees Report](#) 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.

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