

**Minority Report**  
**B-Engrossed**  
**Senate Bill 1583**

Ordered by the Senate February 26  
Including Senate Amendments dated February 19 and Senate Minority  
Report Amendments dated February 26

Sponsored by nonconcurring members of the Senate Committee on Rules: Senators HANSELL, KNOPP

**SUMMARY**

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

**Digest: Creates a task force related to the textbooks and library books that are available in public schools. (Flesch Readability Score: 60.1).**

*[Digest: This Act does not allow a board or a person to choose or not choose materials that are used in a school when the choice is discrimination. (Flesch Readability Score: 66.5).]*

*[Prohibits discrimination when selecting textbooks, instructional materials, program materials or library books that are used in the public schools of this state.]*

**Establishes the Task Force on Accessibility to Public School Materials. Prescribes the membership and duties of the task force. Sunsets January 2, 2025.**

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

1  
2 Relating to access to materials; and declaring an emergency.

3       Whereas the Legislative Assembly finds that access to educational and library materials in  
4 Oregon schools has a direct and long-lasting generational impact that requires in-depth study and  
5 broad understanding; and

6       Whereas the Legislative Assembly finds that discrimination has no place in the State of Oregon  
7 or in the selection of educational materials for student curriculum and books for school libraries;  
8 and

9       Whereas the Legislative Assembly finds that the fundamental right to freedom of speech is a  
10 cornerstone of a healthy society and state; and

11       Whereas Oregon appropriated \$10.2 billion for distribution through the State School Fund for  
12 the 2023-2025 biennium, and the average operating expenditure in the 2021-2022 school year was  
13 \$16,574 per student; and

14       Whereas 75 percent of eighth graders in Oregon could not reach reading proficiency targets in  
15 2022; and

16       Whereas the Legislative Assembly finds that no one has a more vested interest in the quality  
17 of their youth's education and curriculum than the parents within each local community where they  
18 live; and

19       Whereas the United States Supreme Court has recognized the importance of balancing free  
20 speech and the rights of parents and students regarding the curriculum within students' classrooms;  
21 and

22       Whereas the Director of the Department of Education has publicly stated a desire to issue

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.  
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 “sanctions” against local school districts and a willingness to “take over school districts” if neces-  
2 sary; and

3 Whereas the community of Canby, Oregon, exhibited the best of Oregon by engaging local  
4 community stakeholders throughout the review process of educational materials by empowering  
5 students, parents, teachers, librarians, community leaders and others in the balancing of their  
6 students’ rights to both free speech and their adolescence; and

7 Whereas the Legislative Assembly finds that books do exist that are inappropriate and that  
8 should not be in our schools because they contain graphic violence, are sexually explicit, contain  
9 vulgar language, lack literary merit or educational value or are not age appropriate; and

10 Whereas A-engrossed Senate Bill 1583 has enormous unknown impacts and implications that  
11 demand thoughtful and complete consideration from a wide variety of diverse viewpoints and expert  
12 opinions before embarking on a course potentially riddled with negative consequences; and

13 Whereas the curricula and libraries of the public schools of this state should be as diverse as  
14 the people who make up the State of Oregon and should be filled with age-appropriate materials;  
15 and

16 Whereas a task force should be established to study access to educational and library materials  
17 in Oregon public schools and to ensure the preservation of local control of our 197 school boards  
18 in the review of educational and library materials for enrolled children and youth; now, therefore,

19 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

20 **SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on Accessibility to Public School Materials is established.**

21 **(2) The task force consists of 17 members appointed as follows:**

22 **(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint one member from the majority party of the**  
23 **Senate;**

24 **(b) The Senate Minority Leader shall appoint one member from a minority party of the**  
25 **Senate;**

26 **(c) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member from the**  
27 **majority party of the House of Representatives;**

28 **(d) The House Minority Leader shall appoint one member from a minority party of the**  
29 **House of Representatives; and**

30 **(e) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in**  
31 **consultation with the Senate Minority Leader and the House Minority Leader, shall jointly**  
32 **appoint 13 members as follows:**

33 **(A) One member who is a representative from a statewide association that represents**  
34 **school boards;**

35 **(B) One member who is a representative of the Department of Education;**

36 **(C) Six members who are parents of children enrolled in the public schools of this state,**  
37 **with one member representing each congressional district of this state;**

38 **(D) One member who is a representative of a statewide organization related to school**  
39 **libraries;**

40 **(E) One member who is a representative of a statewide association that primarily re-**  
41 **presents licensed educators;**

42 **(F) One member who is a representative of a statewide coalition that represents school**  
43 **administrators;**

44 **(G) One member who is a representative of a statewide organization that represents ed-**  
45 **ucation service districts; and**

1 (H) One member who is a representative of public charter schools.

2 (3) The task force shall:

3 (a) Review the provisions of A-engrossed Senate Bill 1583;

4 (b) Identify recommendations for potential legislation to be introduced for the 2025 reg-  
5 ular legislative session;

6 (c) Identify constitutional constraints for the regulation of curricula or library books  
7 that contain graphic violence, are sexually explicit, contain vulgar language or lack literary  
8 merit or educational value;

9 (d) Identify and make recommendations for ways to better establish standards for age-  
10 appropriate curriculum; and

11 (e) Study legal barriers and litigation that have arisen for local school boards in relation  
12 to applying age-appropriate standards for school libraries.

13 (4) For the purpose of performing the duties specified in subsection (3) of this section,  
14 the task force shall invite the provision of public testimony.

15 (5) A majority of the voting members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the  
16 transaction of business.

17 (6) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the voting  
18 members of the task force.

19 (7) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

20 (8) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-  
21 ment to become immediately effective.

22 (9) The task force shall meet at least four times before December 15, 2024. Meetings shall  
23 be at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson or of a majority of the voting  
24 members of the task force.

25 (10) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

26 (11) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and  
27 may include recommendations for legislation, to an interim committee of the Legislative  
28 Assembly related to education no later than December 31, 2024.

29 (12) The Legislative Policy and Research Director shall provide staff support to the task  
30 force.

31 (13) Members of the Legislative Assembly appointed to the task force are nonvoting  
32 members of the task force and may act in an advisory capacity only.

33 (14) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are not  
34 entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses and serve as volunteers on the task  
35 force.

36 (15) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist  
37 the task force in the performance of the duties of the task force and, to the extent permitted  
38 by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the task  
39 force consider necessary to perform their duties.

40 **SECTION 2.** Section 1 of this 2024 Act is repealed on January 2, 2025.

41 **SECTION 3.** This 2024 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
42 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2024 Act takes effect  
43 on its passage.