

SB 717 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By: Ellen O'Brien, LPRO Analyst

Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/3, 4/2

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to establish a pilot program at a public university to provide stipends to student teachers and educators who mentor student teachers for licensure. It requires the public university to prioritize student teachers who are either from underrepresented backgrounds, located in rural areas of the state, or working in special education or science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The measure applies to the 2026-2027 school year and is repealed after one year.

Fiscal impact: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

Revenue impact: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Proposed amendment
- Proposed pilot program at Pacific University
- Student teaching year as a barrier to completing educator preparation

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 The amendment permits HECC to establish more than one pilot program to provide stipends to student teachers and their mentors. It expands eligible institutions to include private institutions of higher education in Oregon.

BACKGROUND:

[Senate Bill 283 \(2023\)](#) established the [Joint Task Force on Statewide Educator Salary Schedules](#). Consisting of legislators, school advocates, and community members, the Task Force met from September 2023 through September 2024. Task Force members heard presentations from researchers, Canadian officials, state agencies, and labor organizations, and then deliberated over recommendations. In its [final report](#), the Task Force adopted 14 recommendations. The Task Force's recommendation on pay for student teachers and cooperating educators proposed creating stipends for educator candidates enrolled in educator preparation programs (EPPs).

Under [OAR 584-400-0140](#), the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) requires EPPs to ensure that candidates for licensure complete at least 600 hours, or 15 weeks at 40 hours per week, of student teaching.