

HB 3552 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

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Meeting Dates: 2/18, 4/3, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure permits each education service district (ESD) to establish a regional career center to provide career and technical education (CTE) to students in their component school districts. It adds regional career centers to the required elements of an ESD's local service plan. The measure appropriates \$156.4 million to the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to distribute grants to establish regional career centers based on specified funding plans developed by the ESDs.

Detailed Summary

- Permits an education services district (ESD) to establish a regional career center to provide CTE, including jointly with other ESDs.
- Outlines the purposes of a regional career center
- Requires the ESD or ESDs establishing the regional career center to develop a funding plan in consultation with school districts, local workforce development boards, community colleges, local and regional industries, and city and county governments.
- Outlines required components of a funding plan for a regional career center.
- Requires the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to award grants for regional career centers based on rules adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE) and funding plans submitted by ESDs.
- Expands the services that an ESD must include in its local service plan to include providing a regional career center.
- Appropriates \$156.4 million from the General Fund to ODE to support regional career centers and distribute grants to ESDs.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Workforce training in high demand industries
- Provisions of proposed amendment

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 The amendment replaces Sections 2 and 4 of the measure. It removes developing, constructing or remodeling facilities from the purpose of regional career centers and adds collecting regional student, industry, and workforce data, aiding local and regional assessments and prioritization, and developing CTE programs. It requires each regional career center to convene an advisory committee and specifies membership and purposes. The amendment requires the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to award grants to up to 12 ESDs for a regional career center and requires each ESD with a regional career center to submit an annual report to ODE on the completion of CTE programs, credits, and credentials. It reduces the appropriation from \$156.4 million to \$3.6 million.

BACKGROUND:

Education service districts (ESDs) are established in ORS Chapter 334. ESDs are tasked with assisting school districts and the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) in achieving Oregon's educational goals by providing equitable, high quality, cost-effective, and locally responsive educational services at a regional level. ESDs have locally elected boards and board-appointed superintendents. Currently, Oregon has 19 ESDs.

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The services an ESD provides are largely determined by the needs of the ESD's component school districts, who work with the ESD to develop a local service plan in accordance with ORS 334.175. Oregon law currently requires local service plans to include special education services and services for at-risk students; technology support to component school districts; school improvement services, including support for career and technical education; and administrative and support services.

In 2021, the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$6.9 million to expand the Salem-Keizer Career & Technical Education Center (CTEC) into a regional center serving students in Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Counties ([Senate Bill 5534 \(2021\)](#)). [Testimony](#) submitted by the superintendent of the Willamette Education Service District (WESD) described the project as a public-private partnership between Mountain West Investment and the ESD.

In 2023, the House Committee on Education considered [House Bill 3236 \(2023\)](#), which would have appropriated \$2.85 million to the Willamette Career Academy. The Legislative Assembly approved a \$1 million appropriation for the center in [Senate Bill 5506, Section 312](#), but this line item was [vetoed by Governor Tina Kotek](#).