

HB 2695 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 4/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the hiring committee for the president of the Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) to include representatives of the university community and at least one president of a public university. It gives the OHSU Board of Directors the ability to require the inclusion of at least one faculty member, one nonfaculty staff member, and one member of the student body on the presidential search committee. It also gives the OHSU Board of Directors the ability to allow a representative from official campus labor organizations to provide comments or report to the governing board at regularly scheduled meetings, if requested in advance.

Fiscal impact: No fiscal impact.

Revenue impact: No revenue impact.

HOUSE VOTE: Ayes, 38; Nays, 18

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 1995, the Legislative Assembly converted Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) from a public university to a public corporation and established a board of directors. Since then, the governance structure of OHSU has remained largely the same beyond changes to the number of board members. [Senate Bill 423 \(2023\)](#) added faculty and nonfaculty staff members to the OHSU Board of Directors and increased the number of board members from nine to 11.

In May 2024, OHSU announced an agreement to purchase Legacy Health, a system of six hospitals and at least 70 clinics in the Portland area. The Health Care Market Oversight (HCMO) program, administered by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), reviews the sale, merger, or acquisition of health care entities in Oregon. On October 4, 2024, HCMO initiated its [review](#) of OHSU's proposed purchase of Legacy Health.

On October 24, 2024, OHSU President Dr. Danny Jacobs announced his resignation, and on [December 20, 2024](#), OHSU announced the creation of a [presidential search committee](#). The 25-member committee has received a [specification document](#) prepared by the executive search firm Spencer Stuart and published a [summary report](#) of listening sessions and survey responses received by the committee.

[Senate Bill 273 \(2023\)](#), which was the result of a workgroup and governance review conducted during the 2021-22 interim, made a number of changes to the composition and requirements of the seven public university governing boards, which do not include OHSU. Among those changes was the requirement that each public university governing board adopt a policy allowing representatives of official campus labor organizations, as well as official student, faculty, and nonfaculty staff governance organizations, to provide comments or report to the governing board at regularly scheduled meetings, if requested in advance.