

House Bill 2556

Sponsored by Representative GRAYBER, Senator LIEBER; Senator FREDERICK (Pre-session filed.)

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 **as introduced**. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: The Act names PSU as this state's urban research school. (Flesch Readability Score: 86.7).

Designates Portland State University as Oregon's Urban Research University.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to Portland State University designation.

3 Whereas Portland State University was founded in 1946 to provide access to higher education
4 and opportunity for veterans returning home from World War II; and

5 Whereas Portland State University plays a pivotal role in Portland's urban renaissance, leading
6 efforts to revitalize the city's economy, infrastructure, and environment through sustainability initi-
7 atives, climate resilience research, and community-engaged partnerships that promote equitable de-
8 velopment and urban innovation; and

9 Whereas Portland State University now offers world-class graduate programs and serves as a
10 leader in graduate research that drives economic development and urban revitalization; and

11 Whereas Portland State University remains the only public urban research university in this
12 state, located in the state's largest metropolitan area, and has grown into Oregon's most diverse
13 public research university, with more than 20,000 students and more than 200 degree programs that
14 serve more low-income, first-generation, transfer and diverse students than any other university in
15 Oregon; and

16 Whereas Portland State University's motto "Let Knowledge Serve the City" embodies the
17 institution's role as Oregon's public urban research university; and

18 Whereas an urban research university is defined as an institution of higher education having
19 one or more campus locations based at an urban center that reflects the diversity of the region's
20 urban centers, serves as a hub for urban economic development by collaborating with policymakers
21 and business leaders throughout the State, and applies education and research to inform urban
22 public policy; and

23 Whereas urban research universities provide high quality education at the undergraduate and
24 graduate levels to underrepresented and underserved populations, predominantly commuter students,
25 who would otherwise encounter numerous obstacles to advance beyond secondary education; and

26 Whereas, 54 percent of Portland State's Fall 2023 first year class was first generation and 58
27 percent were BIPOC, representing the third year of a majority BIPOC first year class; and

28 Whereas Portland State University serves 6,670 Pell Grant recipients and 5,945 Oregon Oppor-
29 tunity Grant recipients; and

30 Whereas urban research universities play a vital and unique role in changing the face of pro-

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 fessions that have historically been homogenous and monolithic, such as science, technology, engi-
 2 neering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, architecture, clinical sciences, and public health, and urban
 3 research universities enrich the diversity of the university student population, promote inclusion,
 4 and nurture diversity of thought to the problem solving of society’s most challenging issues; and

5 Whereas Portland State University was awarded a 5-year grant under its Asian American and
 6 Native American Pacific Islander (AANAPISI) designation in 2023, making it the largest federally
 7 funded minority-serving institution in Oregon; and

8 Whereas Portland State University has been recognized through competitive research grants
 9 from federal agencies, supporting public-impact research that addresses critical societal issues, in-
 10 cluding sustainability, economic equity, and public health, and enhancing its role as a national
 11 leader in research excellence; and

12 Whereas Portland State University leads interdisciplinary research centers and collaborates
 13 with public universities across Oregon, fostering innovative research that addresses local, regional,
 14 and global challenges; and

15 Whereas Portland State University has received awards from state and federal agencies to begin
 16 and continue research projects surrounding renewable energy storage; and

17 Whereas Portland State University does research that deepens the understanding of how
 18 renewable energy transitions impact communities, and how to minimize the negative impacts that
 19 renewable energy transitions can have on underserved communities; and

20 Whereas Portland State University has researchers traveling and examining climate and
 21 sustainability issues globally; and

22 Whereas Portland State University is a hub of world-class transportation research, conducted
 23 within the Transportation Research and Education Center, which has been funded by the U.S. De-
 24 partment of Transportation; and

25 Whereas Portland State University works with sister centers at partner universities to conduct
 26 public-impact research that improves mobility and builds strong communities; and

27 Whereas Portland State University continues to connect to and produce a highly skilled
 28 workforce through undergraduate education and advanced graduate programs, serving Oregon’s
 29 nexus of growing, innovative technology industries and public agencies; and

30 Whereas Portland State University prepares students for competitive jobs in emerging and
 31 high-demand industries such as semiconductors, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, smart grids and
 32 clean technology, climate change and resilience, and through comprehensive undergraduate educa-
 33 tion, advanced graduate training, and specialized doctoral research programs that equip students
 34 with cutting-edge skills and expertise for leadership in these fields; and

35 Whereas Portland State University started from humble beginnings to become a world-class re-
 36 search university and a recognized leader in social mobility and equitable workforce development
 37 in Oregon and across the globe; and

38 Whereas Portland State University continues to lead community-engaged research in the state’s
 39 urban core; and

40 Whereas Portland State University is recognized for its impact in the research sector locally,
 41 statewide and nationally; now, therefore,

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

43 **SECTION 1. Portland State University is designated and shall be known as Oregon’s Ur-**
 44 **ban Research University.**