

# Senate Bill 749

Sponsored by Senator GORSEK; Representatives NGUYEN H, RUIZ (at the request of Participatory Budgeting Oregon) (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:** Creates a pilot program for students to be involved in the making of a school district budget. (Flesch Readability Score: 70.1).

Directs the Department of Education to establish and administer a pilot program that provides for participatory budgeting by students in the preparation of a school district budget.

Sunset on January 2, 2029.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to participatory budgeting when preparing a school district budget; and declaring an  
3 emergency.

4 Whereas youth are vastly underrepresented in government decision-making; and

5 Whereas policy decisions often are made on issues that affect youth, but without youth in-  
6 volvement and decision-making power; and

7 Whereas data shows that the same risk factors affecting chronic youth absenteeism, dropout  
8 rates and suicide rates can be ameliorated by opportunities of youth civic engagement and authentic  
9 peer-to-peer connections; and

10 Whereas it is essential that youth voices be included when decisions affecting youth are being  
11 made; now, therefore,

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

13 **SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section, "participatory budgeting" means the delegation**  
14 **of budgeting power directly to students to make determinations about how to spend a portion**  
15 **of a school district budget.**

16 **(2) The Department of Education shall establish and administer a pilot program that**  
17 **provides for participatory budgeting in the preparation of the budget of a school district**  
18 **under ORS 328.542.**

19 **(3) Under the pilot program, the department shall award grants to public schools in this**  
20 **state to:**

21 **(a) Recruit and train students to participate in participatory budgeting; and**

22 **(b) Maximize the shared decision-making among students, teachers and administrators.**

23 **(4)(a) The State Board of Education shall adopt by rule the requirements for a school**  
24 **district to apply for a grant under this section and the amounts of grants to be awarded**  
25 **under this section.**

26 **(b) When adopting rules as provided by this subsection, the board shall consult with a**  
27 **nonprofit organization with experience in implementing participatory budgeting.**

28 **(5) The department shall first award a grant under this section no later than October 1,**

**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 2025.

2 (6) The department shall submit reports concerning the pilot program to the interim  
3 committees of the Legislative Assembly related to education as follows:

4 (a) A progress report must be submitted no later than September 15, 2026; and

5 (b) A final report must be submitted no later than September 15, 2028, to summarize the  
6 outcomes of the program.

7 SECTION 2. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-  
8 ated to the Department of Education, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025, out of the  
9 General Fund, the amount of \$500,000, which may be expended for the pilot program estab-  
10 lished under section 1 of this 2025 Act.

11 SECTION 3. Section 1 of this 2025 Act is repealed on January 2, 2029.

12 SECTION 4. This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
13 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect  
14 on its passage.

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