HB 3563-2 (LC 4495) 3/18/25 (HRS/ps)

Requested by Representative MANNIX

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 3563

In line 2 of the printed bill, after "youth" insert "; amending ORS 338.115, 339.370, 339.372, 339.374, 339.378, 339.388, 339.392 and 339.400; and declaring an emergency".

4 Delete lines 4 through 9 and insert:

5 "SECTION 1. ORS 339.370, as amended by section 1, chapter 45, Oregon
6 Laws 2024, is amended to read:

7 "339.370. As used in ORS 339.370 to 339.400:

8 "(1) 'Abuse' has the meaning given that term in ORS 419B.005.

9 "(2) 'Agent' means a person acting as an agent for an education provider 10 in a manner that requires the person to have direct, unsupervised contact 11 with students.

12 "(3) 'Boundary violation' includes any of the following:

"(a) The demonstration or expression of a professionally inappro priate interest in a student's personal life;

"(b) The accepting, giving or exchanging of professionally inappro priate gifts with a student;

"(c) The exchange of professionally inappropriate communications
 with a student; or

"(d) The failure to maintain professionally appropriate boundaries
 with a student in conduct or conversations.

21 "[(3)] (4) 'Commission licensee' has the meaning given that term in ORS

1 **342.120**.

2 "[(4)] (5) 'Contractor' means a person providing services to an education 3 provider under a contract in a manner that requires the person to have di-4 rect, unsupervised contact with students.

5 "[(5)(a)] (6)(a) 'Education provider' means:

6 "(A) A school district, as defined in ORS 332.002.

7 "(B) The Oregon School for the Deaf.

8 "(C) An educational program under the Youth Corrections Education9 Program.

10 "(D) A public charter school, as defined in ORS 338.005.

11 "(E) An education service district, as defined in ORS 334.003.

<sup>12</sup> "(F) An approved recovery school, as defined in ORS 336.680.

"(G) Any state-operated program that provides educational services tostudents.

15 "(H) A private school.

16 "(b) 'Education provider' does not include:

17 "(A) The Oregon Youth Authority;

18 "(B) The Department of Corrections; or

"(C) The Department of Education, except when functioning as an education provider on behalf of the Oregon School for the Deaf.

"[(6)] (7) 'Investigation' means a detailed inquiry into the factual allegations of a report of suspected abuse, [or] suspected sexual conduct or a suspected boundary violation that:

<sup>24</sup> "(a) Is based on interviews with:

<sup>25</sup> "(A) The person who initiated the report[,];

"(B) The person who may have been subjected to abuse, [or] sexual
conduct[,] or a boundary violation;

- "(C) Any witnesses of the abuse, sexual conduct or boundary violation; and
- 30 "(**D**) The person who is the subject of the report; and

1 "(b) Results in a finding that the report:

2 "(A) Is a substantiated report;

3 "(B) Cannot be substantiated; or

4 "(C) Is not a report of abuse, [or] sexual conduct or a boundary vio5 lation.

6 "[(7)] (8) 'Law enforcement agency' has the meaning given that term in 7 ORS 419B.005.

8 "[(8)] (9) 'Licensed administrator' means a person who is employed as an
9 administrator of an education provider and who:

"(a) Holds an administrative license issued by the Teacher Standards and
 Practices Commission under ORS 342.125 (3)(f) or (g); or

"(b) Does not hold an administrative license issued by the commission because the person is employed by an education provider that does not require administrators to be licensed by the commission.

"[(9)] (10) 'Private school' means a school that provides to students instructional programs that are not limited solely to dancing, drama, music, religious or athletic instruction.

"[(10)] (11) 'School board' means the entity charged with adopting policies
for an education provider.

"[(11)] (12) 'School employee' means an employee of an education provider.
"[(12)(a)] (13)(a) 'Sexual conduct' means verbal or physical conduct or
verbal, written or electronic communications by a school employee, a contractor, an agent or a volunteer that involve a student and that are:

24 "(A) Sexual advances or requests for sexual favors directed toward the 25 student; or

"(B) Of a sexual nature that are directed toward the student or that have the effect of unreasonably interfering with the student's educational performance, or of creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment.

29 "(b) 'Sexual conduct' does not include:

30 "(A) Touching or other physical contact:

"(i) That is necessitated by the nature of the school employee's job duties or by the services required to be provided by the contractor, agent or volunteer; and

4 "(ii) For which there is no sexual intent.

5 "(B) Verbal, written or electronic communications that are provided as 6 part of an education program that meets state educational standards or a 7 policy approved by the school board.

8 "(C) Conduct or communications described in paragraph (a) of this sub-9 section if the school employee, contractor, agent or volunteer is also a stu-10 dent and the conduct or communications:

11 "(i) Arise out of a consensual relationship between students;

"(ii) Do not create an intimidating or hostile educational environment;and

"(iii) Are not prohibited by law, any policies of the education provider
 or any applicable employment agreements.

16 "[(13)] (14) 'Student' means any person:

17 "(a) Who is:

18 "(A) In any grade from prekindergarten through grade 12; or

"(B) Twenty-one years of age or younger and receiving educational or related services from an education provider that is not a post-secondary institution of education; or

"(b) Who was previously known as a student by the person engaging in
sexual conduct and who left school or graduated from high school within one
calendar year prior to the sexual conduct.

<sup>25</sup> "[(14)] (15) 'Substantiated report' means a report of abuse, [or] sexual <sup>26</sup> conduct or a boundary violation that a law enforcement agency, the De-<sup>27</sup> partment of Human Services, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commis-<sup>28</sup> sion, the Department of Education or an education provider has reasonable <sup>29</sup> cause to believe, based on the available evidence after conducting an inves-<sup>30</sup> tigation, is founded.

"[(15)] (16) 'Volunteer' means a person acting as a volunteer for an education provider in a manner that requires the person to have direct, unsupervised contact with students.

## 4 "SECTION 2. ORS 339.372 is amended to read:

"339.372. Each school board shall adopt policies on the reporting of suspected abuse, [and] suspected sexual conduct and suspected boundary violations by school employees, contractors, agents and volunteers and the
reporting of suspected abuse by students. The policies shall:

9 "(1) Specify that abuse, [and] sexual conduct **and boundary violations** 10 by school employees, contractors, agents and volunteers and abuse by stu-11 dents are not tolerated.

"(2) Specify that all school employees, contractors, agents, volunteers and
 students are subject to the policies.

"(3) Require all school employees who have reasonable cause to believe that another school employee or a contractor, an agent or a volunteer has engaged in abuse, [*or*] sexual conduct **or a boundary violation** or that a student has engaged in abuse to report:

"(a) To the licensed administrator designated as provided by subsection
(4) of this section all incidents of suspected abuse, [or] suspected sexual
conduct or suspected boundary violations; and

"(b) To a law enforcement agency or the Department of Human Services as required by ORS 419B.010 and 419B.015 all incidents of suspected abuse, in addition to any report made as required under paragraph (a) of this subsection.

"(4) Designate a licensed administrator, and an alternate licensed admin istrator in the event the designated licensed administrator is the suspected
 abuser, to:

"(a) Receive reports of suspected abuse, [or] suspected sexual conduct or
 suspected boundary violations by school employees, contractors, agents or
 volunteers or suspected abuse by students and specify the procedures to be

1 followed by the licensed administrator upon receipt of a report; and

"(b) In the manner required by ORS 339.388 (2), inform the Teacher
Standards and Practices Commission or the Department of Education of reports of suspected sexual conduct received under paragraph (a) of this subsection.

6 "(5) Specify the procedures to be followed after a report of suspected 7 abuse, [or] suspected sexual conduct or a suspected boundary violation is 8 received, including notification that:

9 "(a) All suspected abuse or suspected sexual conduct by school employees, 10 contractors, agents or volunteers will be reported to a law enforcement 11 agency or to a state agency, as appropriate, for investigation;

"(b) A law enforcement agency or a state agency will complete an investigation regardless of any changes in the relationship or duties of the person
about whom the report was made; [and]

"(c) All reports of suspected boundary violations by school employees, contractors, agents or volunteers will be investigated by the education provider and that the Department of Education or the Teacher
Standards and Practices Commission will be notified of all substantiated reports; and

<sup>20</sup> "[(c)] (d) An education provider will take necessary actions as provided <sup>21</sup> by ORS 339.388 to ensure the student's safety after a report is received, in-<sup>22</sup> cluding placing a school employee on paid administrative leave pending an <sup>23</sup> investigation or prohibiting a contractor, an agent or a volunteer from pro-<sup>24</sup> viding services to the education provider.

<sup>25</sup> "(6) Require the posting in each school building of:

"(a) The name and contact information for the licensed administrator and
alternate licensed administrator designated for the school building to receive
reports of suspected abuse, [or] suspected sexual conduct or suspected
boundary violations by school employees, contractors, agents and volunteers or suspected abuse by students and the procedures the licensed admin-

1 istrator will follow upon receipt of a report; and

2 "(b) The contact information for making a report of suspected abuse to 3 a law enforcement agency or the Department of Human Services as required 4 by ORS 419B.010 and 419B.015 and a statement that the duty to report abuse 5 is in addition to any requirement to make a report to a licensed adminis-6 trator.

"(7) Specify that the initiation of a report in good faith about suspected
abuse, [or] suspected sexual conduct or a suspected boundary violation
may not adversely affect any terms or conditions of employment or the work
environment of the person who initiated the report or who may have been
subjected to abuse, [or] sexual conduct or a boundary violation.

"(8) Specify that the education provider or any school employee, contractor, agent or volunteer will not discipline a student for the initiation of a report in good faith about suspected abuse, [or] suspected sexual conduct or **a suspected boundary violation** by a school employee, a contractor, an agent or a volunteer or suspected abuse by a student.

"(9) Require notification, as allowed by state and federal law, by the education provider to the person who was subjected to the suspected abuse,
[or] suspected sexual conduct or a suspected boundary violation about any
actions taken by the education provider based on the report.

"(10) Require the education provider to furnish to a school employee at the time of hire, or to a contractor, an agent or a volunteer at the time of beginning service for the education provider, the following:

"(a) A description of conduct that may constitute abuse, [or] sexual conduct or a boundary violation;

"(b) A description of the investigatory process and possible consequences
if a report of suspected abuse, [or] suspected sexual conduct or a suspected
boundary violation is substantiated; and

"(c) A description of the prohibitions imposed on school employees, contractors and agents when another school employee, contractor or agent at1 tempts to obtain a new job, as provided by ORS 339.378 (2).

2 "(11) Specify and make available to students, school employees, contrac-3 tors, agents and volunteers a policy of appropriate electronic communi-4 cations with students.

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"<u>SECTION 3.</u> ORS 339.374 is amended to read:

"339.374. (1) Except as provided in ORS 339.384, before an education provider may hire an applicant for a position with the education provider as a
school employee, the education provider shall:

9 "(a) Require the applicant to provide:

"(A) A list of the applicant's current and former employers who are edu-cation providers.

"(B) A written authorization that authorizes education providers identi fied in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph to disclose the information re quested under paragraph (b) of this subsection.

<sup>15</sup> "(C) A written statement of whether the applicant:

"(i) Has been the subject of a substantiated report of abuse, [or] sexual
 conduct or a boundary violation; or

"(ii) Is the subject of an ongoing investigation related to a report of suspected abuse, [or] suspected sexual conduct or a suspected boundary violation.

"(b) Conduct a review of the employment history of the applicant with education providers by contacting the three most recent education providers identified in paragraph (a)(A) of this subsection and requesting from each education provider:

"(A) The dates of employment of the applicant by the education provider.
"(B) Whether the education provider conducted an investigation and determined that the applicant was the subject of any substantiated reports of
abuse, [or] sexual conduct or a boundary violation related to the
applicant's employment with the education provider and, if so, the following
additional information:

1 "(i) The dates of any substantiated reports;

"(ii) The definitions of 'abuse,' [and] 'sexual conduct' and 'boundary
violation' used by the education provider when the education provider determined that any reports were substantiated; and

"(iii) The standards used by the education provider to determine whether
any reports were substantiated.

"(c) For an applicant who is a commission licensee, request the commission to verify:

9 "(A) That the applicant is a commission licensee; [and]

"(B) Whether the commission has an ongoing investigation or has a sub stantiated report relating to conduct by the applicant that may constitute
 sexual conduct[.]; and

"(C) Whether the commission has received notice of a substantiated
 report of a boundary violation by the applicant from an education
 provider.

"(d) For an applicant who is not a commission licensee, request the De partment of Education to verify whether the department:

"(A) Has an ongoing investigation or has a substantiated report relating
to conduct by the applicant that may constitute sexual conduct[.]; and

"(B) Has received notice of a substantiated report of a boundary
 violation by the applicant from an education provider.

"(e) Conduct a nationwide criminal records check if required by ORS
 326.603.

"(2) Before an education provider may accept the services of a contractor,
 agent or volunteer, the education provider shall:

"(a) For a person who is a commission licensee, request the commission
to verify whether the commission:

"(A) Has an ongoing investigation or has a substantiated report relating
to conduct by the person that may constitute sexual conduct[.]; and

30 "(B) Has received notice of a substantiated report of a boundary

## 1 violation by the person from an education provider.

2 "(b) For a person who is not a commission licensee, request the Depart-3 ment of Education to verify whether the department:

"(A) Has an ongoing investigation or has a substantiated report relating
to conduct by the person that may constitute sexual conduct[.]; and

6 "(B) Has received notice of a substantiated report of a boundary 7 violation by the person from an education provider.

8 "(c) Conduct any background checks required under ORS 326.603, 326.604
9 or 326.607.

<sup>10</sup> "SECTION 4. ORS 339.378 is amended to read:

"339.378. (1)(a) Not later than 20 days after receiving a request under ORS 339.374 (1)(b), an education provider that has or has had an employment relationship with the applicant shall disclose the information requested.

"(b) An education provider may disclose the information on a standardized form and is not required to provide any additional information related to a substantiated report of abuse, [*or*] sexual conduct **or a boundary violation** other than the information that is required by ORS 339.374 (1)(b).

"(c) Information received under this section is confidential and is not a public record as defined in ORS 192.311. An education provider may use the information only for the purpose of evaluating an applicant's eligibility to be hired.

<sup>22</sup> "(2)(a) Except as provided by paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection, <sup>23</sup> an individual who is a school employee, a contractor or an agent may not <sup>24</sup> assist another school employee, contractor or agent in obtaining any new job <sup>25</sup> if the individual knows, or has reasonable cause to believe, that the school <sup>26</sup> employee, contractor or agent engaged in abuse, [or] sexual conduct **or a** <sup>27</sup> hourdary violation

27 boundary violation.

"(b) Nothing in paragraph (a) of this subsection prevents an educationprovider from:

<sup>30</sup> "(A) Disclosing the information described in subsection (1) of this section;

1 or

2 "(B) Providing the routine transmission of administrative and personnel3 files.

"(c) The prohibition prescribed by paragraph (a) of this subsection does
not apply if the school employee, contractor or agent knows, or has reasonable cause to believe:

"(A) That the suspected abuse or suspected sexual conduct was reported to a law enforcement agency, the Department of Human Services, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission or the Department of Education or that the suspected boundary violation was reported to the licensed administrator designated as provided by ORS 339.372; and

12 "(B) Any of the following are true:

"(i) The report could be neither substantiated nor found to be unsub stantiated following an investigation;

<sup>15</sup> "(ii) The report was found to be unsubstantiated;

16 "(iii) The report was found to be a substantiated report; or

17 "(iv) The investigation into the report remains ongoing after four years.

"(3)(a) The commission may take disciplinary action against a school employee who is a commission licensee for failure to disclose information as required by subsection (1)(a) of this section. In determining whether to take disciplinary action, the commission may take into consideration any evidence presented by the school employee that a longer period of time was necessary for good cause.

"(b) Any violation of the provisions of subsection (2) of this section shall
be considered gross neglect of duty under ORS 342.175.

<sup>26</sup> "SECTION 5. ORS 339.388 is amended to read:

"339.388. (1)(a) A school employee shall immediately submit a report as
provided by paragraph (b) of this subsection if the school employee has reasonable cause to believe that:

30 "(A) A student has been subjected to abuse by another school employee

1 or by a contractor, an agent, a volunteer or a student;

"(B) A student has been subjected to sexual conduct by another school
employee or by a contractor, an agent or a volunteer; [*or*]

"(C) A student has been subjected to a boundary violation by another school employee or by a contractor, an agent or a volunteer; or
"[(C)] (D) Another school employee or a contractor, an agent or a volunteer has engaged in sexual conduct or a boundary violation.

8 "(b) The report required under paragraph (a) of this subsection shall be9 made to:

"(A) The licensed administrator designated in the policies adopted under
 ORS 339.372, for all reports of suspected abuse, [or] suspected sexual conduct
 or suspected boundary violations; and

"(B) A law enforcement agency or the Department of Human Services as
 required by ORS 419B.010 and 419B.015, for all reports of suspected abuse.

"(2) The licensed administrator who receives a report under subsection (1)
of this section shall follow the procedures required by the policies adopted
by the school board under ORS 339.372, including:

"(a) Notifying the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission as soon
as possible of any reports of suspected sexual conduct that may have been
committed by a person who is a commission licensee; and

"(b) Notifying the Department of Education as soon as possible of any reports of suspected sexual conduct that may have been committed by a person who is not a commission licensee.

"(3)(a) When a licensed administrator receives a report of suspected
abuse, [or] suspected sexual conduct or a suspected boundary violation
by a school employee and there is reasonable cause to support the report, the
education provider shall:

<sup>28</sup> "(A) Place the school employee on paid administrative leave; and

<sup>29</sup> "(B) Take necessary actions to ensure the student's safety.

30 "(b) A school employee who is placed on paid administrative leave under

1 paragraph (a) of this subsection shall remain on administrative leave until:

"(A) For a report of suspected abuse, a law enforcement agency or the
Department of Human Services determines that the report:

"(i) Is substantiated and the education provider takes the appropriate
employment action against the school employee; or

6 "(ii) Cannot be substantiated or is not a report of abuse and the education7 provider:

"(I) Determines that an employment policy has been violated and takes
appropriate employment action against the school employee; or

10 "(II) Determines that an employment policy has not been violated and 11 employment action against the school employee is not required.

"(B) For a report of suspected sexual conduct, the Teacher Standards and
 Practices Commission or the Department of Education determines that the
 report:

"(i) Is substantiated and the education provider takes the appropriate
 employment action against the school employee; or

"(ii) Cannot be substantiated or is not a report of sexual conduct and the
 education provider:

"(I) Determines that an employment policy has been violated and takes appropriate employment action against the school employee; or

"(II) Determines that an employment policy has not been violated and that employment action against the school employee is not required.

"(C) For a report of a suspected boundary violation, the education
 provider determines that the report:

25 "(i) Is substantiated and the education provider takes the appro-26 priate employment action against the school employee; or

27 "(ii) Cannot be substantiated or is not a report of a boundary vio 28 lation and the education provider:

"(I) Determines that an employment policy has been violated and
 takes appropriate employment action against the school employee; or

"(II) Determines that an employment policy has not been violated
 and that employment action against the school employee is not re quired.

"(c) When a school employee is placed on paid administrative leave under
paragraph (a) of this subsection, the education provider may not require the
school employee to use any accrued leave during the paid administrative
leave.

8 "(4)(a) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this subsection, when a li-9 censed administrator receives a report of suspected abuse, [*or*] suspected 10 sexual conduct **or a suspected boundary violation** by a contractor, an 11 agent or a volunteer, the education provider:

"(A) May immediately prohibit the contractor, agent or volunteer from
 providing services to the education provider.

"(B) Shall prohibit the contractor, agent or volunteer from providing services to the education provider if the education provider determines that there is reasonable cause to support a report of abuse, [*or*] sexual conduct **or a boundary violation**.

"(b) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this subsection, an education
provider is not required to reinstate a contractor, an agent or a volunteer.
Any reinstatement of a contractor, an agent or a volunteer that does occur
may not occur until:

"(A) For a report of suspected abuse, a law enforcement agency or the
 Department of Human Services determines that the report:

24 "(i) Is substantiated and the education provider takes the appropriate 25 actions to protect students; or

"(ii) Cannot be substantiated or is not a report of abuse and the education
 provider:

<sup>28</sup> "(I) Takes the appropriate actions to protect students; or

<sup>29</sup> "(II) Determines that no other actions are required to protect students.

30 "(B) For a report of suspected sexual conduct, the Teacher Standards and

Practices Commission or the Department of Education determines that the
 report:

"(i) Is substantiated and the education provider takes the appropriate
actions to protect students; or

5 "(ii) Cannot be substantiated or is not a report of sexual conduct and the 6 education provider:

7 "(I) Takes the appropriate actions to protect students; or

8 "(II) Determines that no other actions are required to protect students.

9 "(C) For a report of a suspected boundary violation, the education
 10 provider determines that the report:

"(i) Is substantiated and the education provider takes the appro priate actions to protect students; or

"(ii) Cannot be substantiated or is not a report of a boundary vio lation and the education provider:

15 "(I) Takes the appropriate actions to protect students; or

"(II) Determines that no other actions are required to protect stu dents.

"(c) If a contract under which a contractor provides services to an education provider or an agreement under which an agent provides services to an education provider sets forth any negotiated standards for the relationship between the contractor or agent and the education provider, the education provider shall comply with those standards but may not in any instance grant the contractor or agent more rights than granted to a school employee under subsection (3) of this section.

<sup>25</sup> "(d) Nothing in this subsection:

"(A) Establishes an employment relationship between an education pro vider and a contractor or an agent; or

<sup>28</sup> "(B) Confers onto a contractor or an agent any rights of employment.

29 "(5)(a) When a report of suspected abuse or suspected sexual conduct is 30 investigated by a law enforcement agency, the Department of Human Services, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission or the Department of Education, an education provider may use the findings of the entity that conducted the investigation for the purpose of subsection (3) or (4) of this section and for making any determinations described in subsection (6) of this section.

6 "(b) Nothing in this subsection prohibits an education provider from:

"(A) Conducting an investigation related to a report of suspected abuse
or suspected sexual conduct, except that the education provider must:

9 "(i) If requested, allow the investigation to be led by an entity identified 10 in paragraph (a) of this subsection, as applicable;

"(ii) Follow any protocols and procedures of entities identified in paragraph (a) of this subsection that are involved in the investigation; and

"(iii) Cooperate with the entities identified in paragraph (a) of this subsection that are involved in the investigation, including by:

"(I) Suspending any investigations of the education provider at the re quest of the entity; and

"(II) Sharing information with the entity as provided by subsection (10)
of this section.

"(B) Taking an employment action, based on information available to the
education provider, before an investigation conducted by an entity identified
in paragraph (a) of this subsection is completed.

"(6)(a) For each report of suspected abuse, [or] suspected sexual conduct
 or a suspected boundary violation by a school employee, an education
 provider must determine if:

"(A) An employment policy of the education provider was violated; and
"(B) The education provider will take any employment actions, including
disciplinary action against the school employee or changes to the employment relationship or duties of the school employee.

"(b) Determinations made under paragraph (a) of this subsection must be
based on the findings of an investigation conducted by:

"(A) A law enforcement agency, the Department of Human Services, the
 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission or the Department of Educa tion; or

4 "(B) The education provider, if the education provider conducts an in-5 vestigation.

6 "(c) A final determination by a law enforcement agency, the Department 7 of Human Services, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission or the 8 Department of Education that a report of suspected abuse or suspected sex-9 ual conduct cannot be substantiated or is not a report of abuse or sexual 10 conduct does not:

11 "(A) Relieve an education provider of the requirement to make determi-12 nations under paragraph (a) of this subsection; or

"(B) Prohibit an education provider from taking any employment actions
against a school employee.

"(d) Except as provided by paragraph (e) of this subsection, determi nations made under paragraph (a) of this subsection must be made:

"(A) Within 60 calendar days from the date the education provider received from a law enforcement agency, the Department of Human Services, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission or the Department of Education a final determination that a report of suspected abuse or suspected sexual conduct involving a school employee is a substantiated report; or

<sup>22</sup> "(B) Within 90 calendar days from the date the education provider:

"(i) Received from a law enforcement agency, the Department of Human Services, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission or the Department of Education a final determination that a report of suspected abuse or suspected sexual conduct involving a school employee cannot be substantiated or is not a report of abuse or sexual conduct; or

"(ii) Received a report of suspected abuse or suspected sexual conduct if
the education provider conducts an investigation.

30 "(e) The timelines prescribed by paragraph (d) of this subsection may be

extended if, for good cause, a longer period of time is necessary. For an education provider that conducts an investigation, good cause may include
suspending an investigation as required by subsection (5)(b) of this section.

"(f) Nothing related to the requirement that an education provider 4 make determinations under paragraph (a) of this subsection prohibits  $\mathbf{5}$ a law enforcement agency, the Department of Human Services, the 6 Teacher Standards and Practices Commission or the Department of 7 Education from initiating an investigation that involves a suspected 8 boundary violation or continuing an investigation upon becoming 9 aware of new information that gives rise to a reasonable cause to be-10 lieve that a boundary violation occurred, if the initiation or contin-11 uation of the investigation is otherwise authorized as provided by ORS 12 339.370 to 339.400 or under ORS 419B.010 and 419B.015. 13

"(7) If, in the course of an investigation by an education provider, the education provider becomes aware of new information that gives rise to a reasonable cause to believe that abuse or sexual conduct occurred, the education provider shall ensure that a report is made to a law enforcement agency or the Department of Human Services as required by ORS 419B.010 and 419B.015, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission or the Department of Education.

"(8) If, following an investigation, an education provider determines that
the education provider will take an employment action, the education provider shall:

"(a) Inform the school employee of the employment action that will betaken by the education provider.

"(b) Provide the school employee with information about the appropriate appeal process for the employment action taken by the education provider. The appeal process may be the process provided by a collective bargaining agreement or a process administered by a neutral third party and paid for by the education provider.

"(c) Following notice of a school employee's decision not to appeal the 1 employment action of an education provider or following the determination  $\mathbf{2}$ of an appeal that sustained the employment action taken by the education 3 provider, create a record of the findings of the substantiated report and the 4 employment action taken by the education provider and place the record in  $\mathbf{5}$ any documents maintained by the education provider on the school employee. 6 Records created pursuant to this paragraph are confidential and are not 7 public records as defined in ORS 192.311. An education provider may use the 8 record as a basis for providing the information required to be disclosed about 9 a school employee under ORS 339.378 (1). 10

"(d) Inform the school employee that information about substantiated reports may be disclosed to a potential employer as provided by ORS 339.378 (1).

"(9)(a) Notwithstanding the requirements of this section, an education
 provider that is a private school:

"(A) May take an employment action in relation to a school employee, a
 contractor, an agent or a volunteer according to:

18 "(i) The provisions of this section; or

"(ii) The standards and policies of the private school if the standards and
 policies provide the same or greater safeguards for the protection of students
 compared to the safeguards described in this section.

"(B) May follow the procedures described in subsection (8) of this section
or may follow any appeals process established by the private school related
to suspected abuse, [or] suspected sexual conduct or a suspected boundary
violation.

"(b) A private school that chooses to take an employment action or other action in relation to a school employee, a contractor, an agent or a volunteer according to the standards and policies of the private school must provide the information required to be disclosed under ORS 339.378 (1).

30 "(10) Upon request from a law enforcement agency, the Department of

Human Services, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission or the Department of Education, in conducting an investigation related to suspected abuse or suspected sexual conduct, an education provider shall immediately provide any requested documents or materials, to the extent allowed by state and federal law, including laws protecting a person from self-incrimination.

6 "SECTION 6. ORS 339.392 is amended to read:

"339.392. (1) An education provider may not enter into a collective bargaining agreement, an employment contract, an agreement for resignation
or termination, a severance agreement or any similar contract or agreement
that:

"(a) Has the effect of impairing or terminating an ongoing investigation,
or suppressing information relating to an ongoing investigation, related to
a report of suspected abuse, [or] suspected sexual conduct or a suspected
boundary violation;

"(b) Has the effect of suppressing information relating to a substantiated
report of abuse, [or] sexual conduct or a boundary violation by a current
or former school employee, contractor, agent or volunteer;

"(c) Affects the duties of the education provider to report suspected abuse, [or] suspected sexual conduct or a boundary violation or to discipline a current or former school employee, contractor, agent or volunteer for a substantiated report of abuse, [or] sexual conduct or a boundary violation;

"(d) Impairs the ability of the education provider to discipline a school
employee, a contractor, an agent or a volunteer for a substantiated report
of abuse, [or] sexual conduct or a boundary violation; or

"(e) Requires the education provider to expunge substantiated information
about abuse, [or] sexual conduct or a boundary violation from any documents maintained by an education provider.

"(2) Any provision of an employment contract or agreement that is con trary to this section is void and unenforceable.

"(3) Nothing in this section prevents an education provider from entering
into a collective bargaining agreement that includes:

"(a) Standards for investigation of a report of suspected abuse, [or] suspected sexual conduct or a suspected boundary violation; or

5 "(b) An appeal process from the determination made by or the action 6 taken by an education provider related to a report of abuse, [or] sexual 7 conduct or a boundary violation.

8 "SECTION 7. ORS 339.400 is amended to read:

9 "339.400. (1) An education provider shall provide to school employees each
10 school year training on:

"(a) The prevention and identification of abuse, [and] sexual conduct and
 boundary violations;

"(b) The obligations of school employees under ORS 339.388 and 419B.005
 to 419B.050 and under policies adopted by the school board to report sus pected abuse, [and] suspected sexual conduct and suspected boundary vi olations; and

"(c) Appropriate electronic communications with students as provided by
ORS 339.372 (11).

"(2) An education provider shall provide to contractors, agents and vol unteers each school year information on:

"(a) The prevention and identification of abuse, [and] sexual conduct and
boundary violations;

"(b) The obligations of school employees under policies adopted by the
school board to report abuse, [and] sexual conduct and boundary
violations; and

"(c) Appropriate electronic communications with students as described in
 ORS 339.372 (11).

"(3) An education provider shall make the training provided under subsection (1) of this section available each school year to contractors, agents
and volunteers and to parents and legal guardians of students who attend a

school operated by the education provider. The training shall be provided
separately from the training provided to school employees under subsection
(1) of this section.

"(4) An education provider shall make available each school year to students who attend a school operated by the education provider a training that
is designed to prevent abuse, [and] sexual conduct and boundary
violations.

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"SECTION 8. ORS 338.115 is amended to read:

9 "338.115. (1) Statutes and rules that apply only to school district boards, 10 school districts or other public schools do not apply to public charter 11 schools. However, the following laws do apply to public charter schools:

12 "(a) Federal law;

13 "(b) ORS 30.260 to 30.300 (tort claims);

14 "(c) ORS 192.311 to 192.478 (public records law);

<sup>15</sup> "(d) ORS 192.610 to 192.705 (public meetings law);

<sup>16</sup> "(e) ORS chapters 279A, 279B and 279C (Public Contracting Code);

17 "(f) ORS 297.405 to 297.555 and 297.990 (Municipal Audit Law);

<sup>18</sup> "(g) ORS 326.565, 326.575 and 326.580 (student records);

<sup>19</sup> "(h) ORS 181A.195, 326.603, 326.607 and 342.223 (criminal records checks);

20 "(i) ORS 329.045 (academic content standards and instruction);

"(j) ORS 329.451 (high school diploma, modified diploma, extended diploma
and certificate of attendance);

23 "(k) ORS 329.496 (physical education);

<sup>24</sup> "(L) The statewide assessment system developed by the Department of <sup>25</sup> Education for mathematics, science and language arts under ORS 329.485 (2);

26 "(m) ORS 336.840 (use of personal electronic devices);

- 27 "(n) ORS 337.150 (textbooks);
- 28 "(o) ORS 339.119 (consideration for educational services);
- <sup>29</sup> "(p) ORS 339.141, 339.147 and 339.155 (tuition and fees);
- 30 "(q) ORS 339.250 (9) (prohibition on infliction of corporal punishment);

1 "(r) ORS 339.326 (notice concerning students subject to juvenile court 2 petitions);

"(s) ORS 339.370 to 339.400 (reporting of suspected abuse, [and] suspected
sexual conduct and suspected boundary violations);

5 "(t) ORS 342.856 (core teaching standards);

6 "(u) ORS chapter 657 (Employment Department Law);

7 "(v) ORS 332.505 (2), 659.850, 659.855 and 659.860 (discrimination);

8 "(w) Any statute or rule that establishes requirements for instructional
9 time provided by a school during each day or during a year;

10 "(x) Statutes and rules that expressly apply to public charter schools;

"(y) Statutes and rules that apply to a special government body, as defined in ORS 174.117, or a public body, as defined in ORS 174.109;

13 "(z) Health and safety statutes and rules;

14 "(aa) Any statute or rule that is listed in the charter; and

15 "(bb) This chapter.

"(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, a charter may specify that statutes and rules that apply only to school district boards, school districts and other public schools may apply to a public charter school.

"(3) If a statute or rule applies to a public charter school, then the terms school district' and 'public school' include public charter school as those terms are used in that statute or rule.

"(4) A public charter school may not violate the Establishment Clause of
the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or Article I, section
5, of the Oregon Constitution, or be religion based.

"(5)(a) A public charter school shall maintain an active enrollment of at
 least 25 students.

"(b) For a public charter school that provides educational services under a cooperative agreement described in ORS 338.080, the public charter school is in compliance with the requirements of this subsection if the public charter school provides educational services under the cooperative agreement to at least 25 students, without regard to the school districts in which the
students are residents.

"(6) A public charter school may sue or be sued as a separate legal entity. "(7) The sponsor, members of the governing board of the sponsor acting in their official capacities and employees of a sponsor acting in their official capacities are immune from civil liability with respect to all activities related to a public charter school within the scope of their duties or employment.

9 "(8) A public charter school may enter into contracts and may lease fa-10 cilities and services from a school district, education service district, public 11 university listed in ORS 352.002, other governmental unit or any person or 12 legal entity.

"(9) A public charter school may not levy taxes or issue bonds under
which the public incurs liability.

"(10) A public charter school may receive and accept gifts, grants and
 donations from any source for expenditure to carry out the lawful functions
 of the school.

"(11) The school district in which the public charter school is located shall offer high school diplomas, modified diplomas, extended diplomas and certificates of attendance to any public charter school students who meet the district's and state's standards for a high school diploma, a modified diploma, an extended diploma or a certificate of attendance.

"(12) A high school diploma, a modified diploma or an extended diploma issued by a public charter school grants to the holder the same rights and privileges as a high school diploma, a modified diploma or an extended diploma issued by a nonchartered public school. A certificate of attendance issued by a public charter school shall have the same restrictions as a certificate of attendance issued by a nonchartered public school.

"(13) Prior to beginning operation, the public charter school shall show
 proof of insurance to the sponsor as specified in the charter.

"(14) A public charter school may receive services from an education service district in the same manner as a nonchartered public school in the school district in which the public charter school is located.

4 "<u>SECTION 9.</u> This 2025 Act being necessary for the immediate
5 preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is
6 declared to exist, and this 2025 Act takes effect July 1, 2025.".

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