

SB 1537 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 2/10, 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires each member of a community college district board to have an official, publicly available e-mail address; requires each board to include at least one nonvoting student member; and requires a community college district board to fill a vacancy within 90 days, or else requires the relevant board of county commissioners to fill the vacancy.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the amendment
- Structure and responsibilities of community college district boards
- Student voice

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 The amendment removes the age and residency requirements for the nonvoting student member of community college boards. It requires each board to adopt rules governing the participation of its student member in executive sessions. In cases where a board fails to fill a vacancy within 90 days, the amendment requires the governing body of the county with the most electors to fill the vacancy, as opposed to the county where the college campus is physically located.

BACKGROUND:

Community college district boards' duties and powers are enumerated in ORS Chapter 341. Boards are composed of seven elected members who serve four-year terms. There are currently 17 community college districts in Oregon, covering most but not all of the state ("[Mapping the Landscape of CTE, STEM, and Workforce Education](#)," Legislative Policy and Research Office, December 20, 2022).

Senate Bill 1537 redrafts provisions of Senate Bill 478 (2025), which was not enacted. Senate Bill 273 (2023) addressed similar issues for public university governing boards, including adding undergraduate student and graduate student members to governing boards; modifying the nominating process for faculty, staff, and student members; and requiring governing boards to adopt specified policies for transparency and community feedback.