

SB 1537 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Frederick

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 02/12/26

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 4-1-0-0

Yeas: 4 - Frederick, Neron Misslin, Sollman, Weber

Nays: 1 - Robinson

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Ellen O'Brien, LPRO Analyst

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 email 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. The measure declares an emergency, effective on its passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure
- Structure and responsibilities of community college district boards
- Student voices

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

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 its student member's participation in executive sessions. In cases in which 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 governing body of the county where the college campus is physically located.

BACKGROUND:

Community college district boards' duties and powers are enumerated in Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 341. Boards are composed of seven elected members who serve four-year terms. Oregon currently has [17 community college districts](#), which cover most, but not all, of the state.

Senate Bill 1537 A 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; prohibiting student members from attending any executive session of the board involving collective bargaining issues that affect students; and requiring governing boards to publish institutional email addresses for all board members.