

SB 1537 B STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Hudson

House Committee On Education

Action Date: 02/25/26

Action: Do pass with amendments to the A-Eng bill. (Printed B-Eng.)

Vote: 7-1-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Dobson, Fragala, Hudson, McDonald, McIntire, Rieke Smith, Wright

Nays: 1 - Harbick

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Ellen O'Brien, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/23, 2/25

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
- Role of student board member
- Consistency of policies on student participation in executive sessions
- Appropriate process for filling board vacancies

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment prohibits the nonvoting student member from participating in any executive session of the board, rather than allowing each district board to create its own rules governing the student member's participation.

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 B 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.