

A-Engrossed
Senate Bill 1537

Ordered by the Senate February 13
Including Senate Amendments dated February 13

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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. The statement includes a measure digest written in compliance with applicable readability standards.

Digest: This Act changes some laws related to the board of a community college. This Act takes effect when the Governor signs it. (Flesch Readability Score: 72.6).

Requires the members of a board of education of a community college district to have an official electronic mail address that is posted on a publicly accessible website. Requires the board to include at least one nonvoting member of the board who is a student at a community college in the district. Requires the board to report to the Legislative Assembly on the board's compliance with certain provisions of the Act. Modifies requirements for filling vacancies on the board.

Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to boards of education of community college districts; creating new provisions; amending
2 ORS 341.275, 341.283 and 341.335; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 341.283 is amended to read:

6 341.283. (1) After July 1 of each year, the board of a district shall meet and organize by electing
7 a chairperson and a vice chairperson from its members.

8 (2) The board shall provide for the time and place of its regular meetings, at any of which it
9 may adjourn to the next succeeding regular meeting or to some specified time prior thereto. Special
10 meetings shall be convened by order of the chairperson of the board or upon the request of four
11 board members at least 24 hours before such meeting is to be held, or by common consent of the
12 board members. Notice of any special meeting shall be given to the members pursuant to bylaws of
13 the board.

14 (3) A majority of the board members shall constitute a quorum. The affirmative vote of the ma-
15 jority of members of the board is required to transact any business.

16 (4) The board shall adopt rules for the government of the conduct of its members and its pro-
17 ceedings. The board shall keep a journal and, on the call of any one of its members, shall cause the
18 yeas and nays to be taken and entered upon its journal upon any question before it.

19 (5) Any duty imposed upon the board as a body shall be performed at a regular or special
20 meeting and shall be made a matter of record. The consent to any particular measure obtained from
21 individual board members when the board is not in session shall not be an act of the board and shall
22 not be binding upon the district.

23 (6) Members of the board shall receive no compensation for their services, but they shall be al-

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 lowed the actual and necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties.

2 **(7) Each member of the board shall have an official institutional electronic mail address**
3 **that is posted on a publicly available website for the board.**

4 **SECTION 2.** The amendments to ORS 341.283 by section 1 of this 2026 Act become oper-
5 ative 90 days following the effective date of this 2026 Act.

6 **SECTION 3.** ORS 341.275 is amended to read:

7 341.275. [(1) *The board shall be composed of seven members.*]

8 [(2) *No person who is an employee of the community college district shall be eligible to serve as a*
9 *member of the board for the district by which the employee is employed.*]

10 **(1) The board shall be composed of seven voting members and at least one nonvoting**
11 **member who is a student enrolled in at least six in-person credits per term, other than a**
12 **summer term, at a community college in the district.**

13 **(2) A nonvoting member who is a student must be:**

14 **(a) Elected or selected through a process held by the student government or student**
15 **governance structure at a community college in the district;**

16 **(b) Permitted to vote ceremonially on any question subject to a vote of the board, with**
17 **the vote entered along with the yeas and nays in the journal of the board under ORS 341.283;**

18 **(c) Permitted to participate in any meeting, discussion or function of the board; and**

19 **(d) Provided any information distributed to voting members of the board.**

20 **(3) A person may not serve on the board of a specific community college district if the**
21 **person is an employee of the district.**

22 **(4)(a) Notwithstanding subsection (2)(c) of this section, a nonvoting student member of**
23 **the board may participate in an executive session of the board only to the extent rules**
24 **adopted by the board under this subsection authorize the participation of the student mem-**
25 **ber in the executive session.**

26 **(b) Each board shall adopt rules that govern a nonvoting student member's participation**
27 **in executive sessions of the board.**

28 **SECTION 4.** The amendments to ORS 341.275 by section 3 of this 2026 Act become oper-
29 **ative on July 1, 2027.**

30 **SECTION 5.** ORS 341.283, as amended by section 1 of this 2026 Act, is amended to read:

31 341.283. (1) After July 1 of each year, the board of a district shall meet and organize by electing
32 a chairperson and a vice chairperson from its **voting** members.

33 (2) The board shall provide for the time and place of its regular meetings, at any of which it
34 may adjourn to the next succeeding regular meeting or to some specified time prior thereto. Special
35 meetings shall be convened by order of the chairperson of the board or upon the request of four
36 **voting** board members at least 24 hours before such meeting is to be held, or by common consent
37 of the **voting** board members. Notice of any special meeting shall be given to [the] **all** members
38 pursuant to bylaws of the board.

39 (3) A majority of the **voting** board members shall constitute a quorum. The affirmative vote of
40 the majority of **voting** members of the board is required to transact any business.

41 (4) The board shall adopt rules for the government of the conduct of its members and its pro-
42 ceedings. The board shall keep a journal and, on the call of any one of its **voting** members, shall
43 cause the yeas and nays to be taken and entered upon its journal upon any question before it.

44 (5) Any duty imposed upon the board as a body shall be performed at a regular or special
45 meeting and shall be made a matter of record. The consent to any particular measure obtained from

1 individual board members when the board is not in session shall not be an act of the board and shall
2 not be binding upon the district.

3 (6) Members of the board shall receive no compensation for their services, but they shall be al-
4 lowed the actual and necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties.

5 (7) Each member of the board shall have an official institutional electronic mail address that is
6 posted on a publicly available website for the board.

7 **SECTION 6. The amendments to ORS 341.283 by section 5 of this 2026 Act become oper-
8 ative on July 1, 2027.**

9 **SECTION 7. Each community college district shall submit a report that includes dis-
10 cussion of the degree to which the community college has complied with the requirements
11 of ORS 341.275 and 341.283, as amended by sections 1 and 3 of this 2026 Act, to the interim
12 committees of the Legislative Assembly related to higher education not later than September
13 1, 2028. The report under this section must include input from representatives of student,
14 faculty and nonfaculty staff governance organizations.**

15 **SECTION 8. ORS 341.335 is amended to read:**

16 341.335. (1) The board shall declare the office of a board member vacant if it finds any of the
17 following:

18 (a) The incumbent has died or resigned.

19 (b) The incumbent has been removed or recalled from office or the election of the incumbent
20 thereto has been declared void by the judgment of a court.

21 (c) The incumbent has ceased to be a resident of the district from which the incumbent was
22 nominated or elected.

23 (d) The incumbent has ceased to discharge the duties of office for two consecutive months unless
24 prevented therefrom by sickness or other unavoidable cause or unless excused by the chairperson
25 of the board.

26 (2) A board member who is nominated or elected by zone and who changes permanent residence
27 from one zone of a district to another zone or who by a change in zone boundaries no longer resides
28 in the zone of nomination or election is entitled to continue to serve as board member until June
29 30 following the next regular district election at which a successor shall be elected by the electors
30 to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term, if any. The successor shall take office July 1 next
31 following the election.

32 (3) When a vacancy is declared under subsection (1) of this section, **and the vacancy occurs
33 not less than 90 days before the regular district election for the position**, the remaining board
34 members shall meet and appoint a person to fill the vacancy from any of the electors of the district
35 **not more than 90 days after the vacancy occurs**, if the position is one filled by both nomination
36 and election at-large, and otherwise from any of the electors of the zone from which the vacancy
37 occurs.

38 (4)(a) If the offices of a majority of the board members are vacant at the same time, the gov-
39 erning body of the principal county shall appoint persons to fill the vacancies from any of the
40 electors of the district if the positions are filled by both nomination and election at-large, and oth-
41 erwise from any of the electors of the zone from which the vacancy occurs.

42 (b) **If the remaining board members fail to appoint a person to fill a vacancy in accord-
43 ance with subsection (3) of this section:**

44 (A) **For at-large seats, the governing body of the county with the most electors in the
45 district shall appoint a resident of the district within the county to fill the vacancy; and**

(B) For a zone seat for which there is a vacancy, the governing body of the county with the most electors in the zone shall appoint a resident of the zone who is within the county.

3 (c) A governing body described in paragraph (b) of this subsection shall make an ap-
4 pointment under this subsection not more than 14 days following the failure of the board to
5 fill a vacancy.

(5) The period of service of a board member appointed under subsection (3) or (4) of this section commences upon appointment and expires June 30 next following the next regular district election at which a successor is elected. The successor shall be elected to serve the remainder, if any, of the term for which the appointment was made. If the term for which the appointment was made expires June 30 after the election of the successor, the successor shall be elected to a full term. In either case, the successor shall take office on July 1.

12 **SECTION 9.** This 2026 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
13 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2026 Act takes effect
14 on its passage.

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