

HB 4160 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 2/22, 2/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure extends the time frame a person is considered a student for laws related to sexual conduct involving a student from 90 days after the student graduates high school or leaves school to one calendar year after the student graduates high school or leaves school. The measure is effective July 1, 2024.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

SENATE VOTE: Passed. Ayes, 58; Excused, 2.

Detailed Summary:

Extends the time frame a person is considered student for laws related to reports, investigations, and disclosures concerning sexual conduct involving a student from 90 days after the student leaves school or graduates high school to one calendar year after the student leaves school or graduates high school. Effective July 1, 2024.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 339.370 to ORS 339.400 require school boards to adopt policies on reporting suspected abuse and sexual conduct by school employees, volunteers, contractors, or agents that involve students, and outlines the circumstances under which a school employee would be required to submit a report of suspected abuse or sexual conduct, among other requirements. Under ORS 339.370, sexual conduct includes sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

Currently, the definition of student includes a person who was previously known as a student by the person engaging in sexual conduct, and who left school or graduated from high school within ninety days prior to the sexual conduct. If a school employee engaged in suspected sexual conduct or abuse involving a person who had graduated or left school more than ninety days prior to the conduct, that conduct would currently not be subject to the requirements outlined in these statutes.