

Senate Bill 1097

Sponsored by Senator FERRIOLI; Senators G GEORGE, L GEORGE, NELSON, STARR, WHITSETT, WINTERS, Representative FLORES (Presession filed.)

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 **as introduced**.

Creates Oregon Professional Development Initiative Commission. Directs commission to create statewide professional development system for teachers, administrators and educational assistants. Directs commission to create virtual learning network.

Allocates moneys from Administrative Services Economic Development Fund to Department of Education for purposes of commission.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to education; limiting expenditures; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas professional development initiatives to promote educational and employee excellence
4 in public schools are of vital importance in increasing student learning and strengthening Oregon's
5 economy; and

6 Whereas Oregon's new diploma requirements magnify the need for increased and improved pro-
7 fessional development for educators so that in the future all students will meet the diploma re-
8 quirements; and

9 Whereas Oregon should provide tools to assist educators when the educators collaborate to de-
10 sign professional development programs that both support promising practices and increase student
11 achievement; and

12 Whereas Oregon needs a statewide system to strengthen professional development for educators
13 based on established standards, best educational practices and research; and

14 Whereas research on teacher quality estimates that the difference between having a good
15 teacher and an ineffective teacher equates to one grade level's worth of achievement gains and that
16 improving teacher quality is one of the most cost-effective ways to improve student outcomes; and

17 Whereas professional development is also needed to help educators bring the best researched
18 teaching methods to the classroom in an expedited manner; and

19 Whereas statewide support to educators can be provided through statewide standards, a virtual
20 learning network and ongoing research-based resource sharing; and

21 Whereas strengthening statewide professional development by adopting nationally recognized
22 standards and creating a virtual learning network should not be confused with regulatory or li-
23 censing oversight of professional development and should be pursued independently as a partnership
24 of public and private entities; now, therefore,

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

26 **SECTION 1. As used in sections 2 to 7 of this 2008 Act:**

27 **(1) "Administrator" has the meaning given that term in ORS 342.120.**

28 **(2) "Educational assistant" has the meaning given that term in ORS 342.120.**

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 (3) "Teacher" has the meaning given that term in ORS 342.120.

2 **SECTION 2.** (1) The Oregon Professional Development Initiative Commission, consisting
3 of 14 members, is established in the Department of Education.

4 (2) The commission is a public and private partnership designed to create a system
5 available statewide to provide research-based, sustainable, high-quality professional develop-
6 ment for all Oregon pre-kindergarten through grade 12 teachers, administrators and educa-
7 tional assistants.

8 (3)(a) Seven members of the commission shall be appointed by the Governor and seven
9 members shall be appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

10 (b) The department shall establish qualifications for appointment to the commission. The
11 qualifications shall include but not be limited to experience, training or education in profes-
12 sional development and creation of virtual learning networks in the public or private sector.

13 (4) The term of office of each member is three years. Each member serves at the pleas-
14 ure of the member's appointing authority.

15 (5) Before expiration of the term of a member, the member's appointing authority shall
16 appoint a successor. A member is eligible for reappointment and may serve up to three
17 terms. If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall, within 60 days of
18 the vacancy, make an appointment to become immediately effective for the unexpired term.

19 (6) Members of the commission are not entitled to compensation, but may be reimbursed
20 for actual and necessary travel and other expenses incurred by them in the performance of
21 their official duties in the manner and amounts provided for in ORS 292.495. Claims for ex-
22 penses incurred in performing functions of the commission shall be paid out of funds appro-
23 priated to the department for that purpose.

24 (7) The commission shall select one of its members as chairperson and another as vice
25 chairperson, for such terms and with duties and powers necessary for the performance of
26 the functions of those offices as the commission determines.

27 (8) A majority of the members of the commission constitutes a quorum for the trans-
28 action of business.

29 (9) The commission may meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson
30 or of a majority of the members of the commission. The commission shall meet a minimum
31 of six times each year.

32 (10) The department shall provide staff support to the commission.

33 **SECTION 3.** (1) The Oregon Professional Development Initiative Commission shall ap-
34 point an executive director of the commission to serve at the pleasure of the commission.

35 (2) The designation of the executive director must be by written order, filed with the
36 Secretary of State.

37 (3) Subject to any applicable provisions of ORS chapter 240, the executive director shall
38 appoint all subordinate officers and employees of the commission, prescribe their duties and
39 fix their compensation.

40 (4) The executive director shall be paid a salary in an amount determined by the com-
41 mission.

42 **SECTION 4.** (1) The Oregon Professional Development Initiative Commission shall de-
43 velop a program that creates a statewide, research-based, sustainable, high-quality profes-
44 sional development system to assist in building the skills and knowledge of Oregon teachers,
45 administrators and educational assistants to ensure that every student meets high academic

1 standards.

2 (2) The commission shall establish statewide standards based on nationally recognized
3 staff development standards that are linked to increasing student achievement.

4 (3) The commission shall provide professional development resources and curricula that
5 are based on data, research and educational best practices and that meet the standards es-
6 tablished under subsection (2) of this section.

7 (4) The commission shall establish a virtual learning network for teachers, administra-
8 tors and educational assistants that provides resources and support to school districts as
9 they develop and implement their own professional development programs.

10 (5) If approved by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission, professional devel-
11 opment programs provided through the Oregon Professional Development Initiative Com-
12 mission constitutes required experience for license renewal pursuant to ORS 342.135, 342.138
13 and 342.140.

14 (6)(a) All school districts and education service districts shall recognize the professional
15 development programs developed by the Oregon Professional Development Initiative Com-
16 mission as meeting basic state and federal requirements for educational assistants.

17 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection, school districts may require addi-
18 tional job-specific training for educational assistants who change job assignments.

19 (7)(a) The Oregon Professional Development Initiative Commission shall notify the De-
20 partment of Education and the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission about providers
21 that are recommended by the Oregon Professional Development Initiative Commission for
22 offering professional development to teachers, administrators and educational assistants.

23 (b) Each school year, the department and the Teacher Standards and Practices Com-
24 mission shall publish a list of providers of professional development recommended by the
25 Oregon Professional Development Initiative Commission.

26 **SECTION 5.** (1) The Oregon Professional Development Initiative Commission may con-
27 tract with public and private entities to support the professional development curricula.

28 (2) The professional development curricula shall include, but not be limited to:

29 (a) Research and best practices for enhancing professional practice to improve student
30 curricula, instruction and assessment;

31 (b) Data analysis for planning and improving student learning;

32 (c) Family and community participation that increases student achievement; and

33 (d) Creation of an equitable, culturally responsive, safe and supportive learning environ-
34 ment for students.

35 **SECTION 6.** (1) The Oregon Professional Development Initiative Commission shall es-
36 tablish a statewide virtual learning network. The network shall focus on creating a virtual
37 professional development resource site on the Internet for teachers, administrators and ed-
38 ucational assistants.

39 (2) Through the virtual learning network, the commission shall support ongoing research
40 and development efforts to promote high quality educational best practices.

41 (3) The virtual network may provide:

42 (a) High quality resources, including but not limited to links to multimedia, best practices
43 and research-based information, in a searchable location;

44 (b) An online community to bring together professional development providers, teachers,
45 administrators, educational assistants, support personnel and practice groups for effective

1 collaboration;

2 (c) Access to experts and colleagues through periodic scheduled discussions; and

3 (d) Academic subject and situation-specific professional development and training mod-
4 ules.

5 **SECTION 7.** (1) The Department of Education shall conduct each fiscal year an audit of
6 expenditures by the Oregon Professional Development Initiative Commission.

7 (2) Each year the commission shall report to the State Board of Education, the Joint
8 Boards of Education and the Legislative Assembly or an appropriate interim committee on
9 performance measures, including but not limited to satisfaction with professional develop-
10 ment and any changes in opinion about performance measures from the prior year.

11 **SECTION 8.** (1) Notwithstanding the term of office specified by section 2 of this 2008 Act,
12 of the members first appointed to the Oregon Professional Development Initiative Commis-
13 sion:

14 (a) Four shall serve for terms ending July 1, 2009;

15 (b) Five shall serve for terms ending July 1, 2010; and

16 (c) Five shall serve for terms ending July 1, 2011.

17 (2) The Governor and the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall jointly determine
18 upon appointment of the initial members to the commission the length of the terms of the
19 members based on subsection (1) of this section.

20 (3) The Governor and the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall appoint the first
21 commission members prior to June 30, 2008.

22 **SECTION 9.** (1) There is allocated to the Department of Education from the Adminis-
23 trative Services Economic Development Fund the amount identified in subsection (2) of this
24 section.

25 (2) Notwithstanding any other law limiting expenditures, the amount of \$400,000 is es-
26 tablished for the biennium beginning July 1, 2007, as the maximum limit for payment of ex-
27 penses by the Department of Education from the Administrative Services Economic
28 Development Fund for carrying out the purposes of sections 2 to 7 of this 2008 Act.

29 (3) The allocation of moneys from the Administrative Services Economic Development
30 Fund under this section is subject to the requirements in section 4, Article XV of the Oregon
31 Constitution, for deposit of specified amounts of the net proceeds from the Oregon State
32 Lottery into the Education Stability Fund and into the Parks and Natural Resources Fund
33 and shall be made only after satisfaction or payment of:

34 (a) Amounts allocated to Westside lottery bonds issued under ORS 391.140 or to the re-
35 serves or any refunding related to the Westside lottery bonds in accordance with the priority
36 for allocation and disbursement established by ORS 391.130;

37 (b) All liens, pledges or other obligations relating to lottery bonds or refunding lottery
38 bonds that are due or payable during the biennium beginning July 1, 2007; and

39 (c) Amounts required by any other pledges of, or liens on, net proceeds from the Oregon
40 State Lottery.

41 **SECTION 10.** Sections 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of this 2008 Act become operative June 30, 2008.

42 **SECTION 11.** This 2008 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
43 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2008 Act takes effect
44 on its passage.