

Senate Bill 978

Sponsored by Senator BURDICK, Representative BUCKLEY; Senator THOMSEN, Representative THOMPSON (at the request of Oregon Library Association)

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**.

Establishes Task Force on School Libraries. Charges task force with making evaluations and developing recommendations to provide quality school libraries.

Sunsets task force on February 4, 2013.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1 Relating to school libraries; and declaring an emergency.

2 Whereas the Seventy-fifth Legislative Assembly recognized the importance of improving our
3 school libraries by passing House Bill 2586 during the 2009 legislative session; and

4 Whereas data illustrate that strong reading skills are critical to a successful education and that
5 library instruction is vital to strong reading skills; and

6 Whereas students have rapidly decreasing opportunities for library and information literacy in-
7 struction due to a lack of funding; and

8 Whereas the legislature recognizes the educational deficit students face as a result of the crit-
9 ical decline in professional school library programming and the crisis that our school libraries are
10 facing and is striving for creative solutions to improve this situation through the creation of a
11 school library task force; now, therefore,

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

13 **SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on School Libraries is established.**

14 **(2) The task force consists of 12 members appointed as follows:**

15 **(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint two members from among members of the**
16 **Senate.**

17 **(b) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members from among**
18 **members of the House of Representatives.**

19 **(c) The Governor shall appoint eight members as follows:**

20 **(A) The State Librarian;**

21 **(B) One member who represents the Oregon University System;**

22 **(C) One member who represents the Department of Education;**

23 **(D) Three members who are selected from a list of nominees submitted by the Oregon**
24 **Association of School Libraries and who represent diverse schools and geographic areas; and**

25 **(E) Two members who are selected from a list of nominees submitted by the Oregon Li-**
26 **brary Association and one of whom represents a public library.**

27 **(3) The task force shall:**

28 **(a) Evaluate the current status of school libraries and library programs, including staff-**
29 **ing, instruction provided and available materials and equipment;**

30 **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 (b) Evaluate the best practices for library instruction and programming based on staff-
2 ing, funding and available materials and equipment;

3 (c) Develop recommendations to improve school libraries and library programs based on
4 available resources; and

5 (d) Recommend any voluntary strategies designed to increase and improve school li-
6 braries and library programs.

7 (4) A majority of the voting members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the
8 transaction of business.

9 (5) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the voting
10 members of the task force.

11 (6) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson and one of its
12 members to serve as secretary.

13 (7) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-
14 ment to become immediately effective.

15 (8) The task force shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson
16 or of a majority of the voting members of the task force.

17 (9) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

18 (10) The task force shall submit a report, and may include recommendations for legis-
19 lation, to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to education no later
20 than October 1, 2012.

21 (11) The Department of Education shall provide staff support to the task force.

22 (12) Notwithstanding ORS 171.072, members of the task force who are members of the
23 Legislative Assembly are not entitled to mileage expenses or a per diem and serve as volun-
24 teers on the task force. Other members of the task force are not entitled to compensation
25 or reimbursement for expenses and serve as volunteers on the task force.

26 (13) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist
27 the task force in the performance of its duties and, to the extent permitted by laws relating
28 to confidentiality, to furnish such information and advice as the members of the task force
29 consider necessary to perform their duties.

30 SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2011 Act is repealed on February 4, 2013.

31 SECTION 3. This 2011 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
32 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2011 Act takes effect
33 on its passage.

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