



To: House Education Committee
From: Vickie Chamberlain, Executive Director, TSPC
Date: February 11, 2015
Re: HB 2412

HB 2412 clarifies and updates statutory provisions related to educator licensure, preparation programs and discipline. The Commission is requesting the amendments for the following reasons:

- To update Oregon statutes to reflect current Oregon law. The Commission was created in 1965. Consequently, many of the underlying statutes remain dated and reflect a period that precedes the separation of teachers' and administrators' duties that occurred in 1973 when the state adopted public employee collective bargaining;
- To align Oregon statutes with new national requirements related to educator preparation, licensure systems and the expansion of accountability systems for educator quality, including updating current professional terminology;
- To align Oregon statutes with new Commission requirements and terms in the educator preparation program and professional practices areas; and
- To clarify Oregon statutes in light of the Commission's review and proposed overhaul of the educator licensure system.

Specifically, HB 2412:

- Updates outdated terms; (Section 1 and throughout)
- Clearly separates the definition of administrator from teacher; (Section 1)
- Removes obsolete language; (throughout)
- Updates the Commission's statutes related to approving licensure programs; (Section 8)
- Clarifies the Commission's authority to deny registrations to charter school educators who have been engaged in criminal activity and prior misconduct; (Section 6)
- Eliminates the Commission's authority to fine districts for failure to hire currently licensed educators; but retains authority to sanction administrators and educators who intentionally hire unlicensed staff or who intentionally work unlicensed; (Section 10)
- Clarifies some disciplinary procedures and allows redistribution of investigative casework review from the Executive Director to other designated appropriate staff; (Section 12)
- Changes the name of the "Minority Teachers Act" to the "Educator Equity Act" while retaining the recently amended rigorous expectations for districts and higher education to hire and prepare more diverse educators; (Section 32)
- Repeals outdated statutes.