



# Memo

To: HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
From: Victoria Chamberlain, Executive Director  
Date: March 31, 2015  
Re: HB 2412 and the -2 and -3 Amendments

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## **HB 2412 – Reasons for the bill:**

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:

- 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 statute 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 statute with the Commission's adoption of more rigorous requirements for Oregon's educator preparation programs; and
- To clarify Oregon statutes in light of the Commission's review and proposed overhaul of the system of educator licensure.

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- Updates outdated terms; (Section 1 and throughout)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- Repeals outdated statutes.

**The -2 Amendments:**

**Addressing dyslexia in teacher preparation:** The -2 amendments add provisions that were proposed and revised by the advocacy group: Decoding Dyslexia in SB 612. The amendments would require the Commission to adopt standards related to addressing dyslexia identification and improved teaching methods in certain teacher preparation programs where dyslexia is most likely to be first identified. These preparation programs include:

- Elementary education;
- Special education;
- Early childhood education; and
- Reading Intervention.

Additionally, the amendments require the Commission to report to the legislature by October 2016 on the implementation of these standards in above-mentioned teacher preparation programs.

**The -3 Amendments:**

**Use of the term “right” versus “privilege”:** The -3 amendments changes the terms “privilege to apply” to “right to apply” throughout the TSPC statutes. Both “privilege” and “right” are present in the current Commission’s statutes. Originally, the Commission recommended using the term “privilege” based on a recent court case that emphasized the use of the term “privilege versus the term “right.”

Commission stakeholders prefer the term “right.” The Commission does not have strong feelings about either term but feel that one term should be used consistently throughout the statutes. These amendments settle on the term “right.”

**Removal of proposed amendments to the Minority Teacher Act:**

HB 3375 contains most of the proposed amendments to change the name of the act to the Educators Equity Act. To avoid confusion, the Commission is recommending that these provisions be removed from HB 2412.