



Memo

To: SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
From: Victoria Chamberlain
Date: May 5, 2015
Re: HB 2412A

HB 2412A – Reasons for the bill:

Addressing dyslexia in teacher preparation HB 2412A 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.

TSPC worked with the advocacy group, Decoding Dyslexia, to develop the proposed dyslexia provisions in HB 2412A.

Removal of proposed amendments to the Minority Teacher Act: Removes revisions 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 House Education Committee removed the Minority Teacher Act provisions from HB 2412.

Housekeeping and Minor Policy Changes: HB 2412A 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 proposed restructuring of the educator licensure system to simplify and streamline the licensing process.

Specifically, HB 2412A (Housekeeping and Minor Policy Changes):

- Updates outdated terms; (Section 1 and throughout)
- Clearly separates the definition of administrator from teacher; (Section 1)
- Removes obsolete language; (throughout)
- Changes the terms "privilege to apply" to "right to apply" throughout the TSPC statutes for consistency and clarity. Both "privilege" and "right" are used inconsistently in the current Chapter 342. (throughout)
- Updates the Commission's statutes related to approving licensure programs; (Section 9)
- 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)
- Repeals outdated statutes.