

A-Engrossed
Senate Bill 439

Ordered by the Senate April 1
Including Senate Amendments dated April 1

Sponsored by Senator ROBLAN, Representative SPRENGER, Senator THOMSEN, Representative KOMP (at the request of Oregon Outdoor Education Coalition) (Pre-session 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.

Directs Oregon State University Extension Service to assist school districts and education service districts in providing outdoor school programs.

Establishes Outdoor Education Account for purpose of providing outdoor school programs. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Oregon Department of Administrative Services for deposit in account.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2015.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to funding for outdoor school; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **SECTION 1. Sections 2 and 3 of this 2015 Act are added to and made a part of ORS**
5 **chapter 327.**

6 **SECTION 2. (1) The Oregon State University Extension Service shall assist school dis-**
7 **tricts and education service districts in providing outdoor school programs. The Oregon**
8 **State University Extension Service shall provide assistance by administering a grant pro-**
9 **gram, providing program leadership and providing program maintenance.**

10 **(2) Grants shall be awarded for outdoor school programs that:**

11 **(a) Provide a six-day, residential, hands-on educational experience, or an equivalent out-**
12 **door educational experience that reflects local community needs and contexts, featuring field**
13 **study opportunities for students learning about:**

14 **(A) Soil, water, plants and animals;**

15 **(B) The role of timber, agriculture and other natural resources in the economy of this**
16 **state;**

17 **(C) The interrelationship of nature, natural resources, economic development and career**
18 **opportunities in this state; and**

19 **(D) The importance of this state's environment and natural resources.**

20 **(b) Are integrated with local school curricula in a manner that assists students in**
21 **meeting state standards related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and**
22 **international standards related to science.**

23 **(c) Provide students with opportunities to develop leadership, critical thinking and**
24 **decision-making skills.**

25 **(d) Address the inequity of outdoor educational opportunities for underserved children in**

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 **this state.**

2 (e) **Provide students with opportunities to learn about the interdependence of urban and**
3 **rural areas.**

4 (3) **Grants shall be awarded from the Outdoor Education Account established under sec-**
5 **tion 3 of this 2015 Act and shall be awarded to a school district or to an education service**
6 **district.**

7 (4) **Priority for grants shall be given to outdoor school programs that promote:**

8 (a) **Higher scores on standardized measures of academic achievement in reading, writing,**
9 **math, science and social studies.**

10 (b) **Greater self-sufficiency and leadership skills.**

11 (c) **Fewer discipline and classroom management problems.**

12 (d) **Increased student engagement and pride in accomplishments.**

13 (e) **Greater proficiency in solving problems and thinking strategically.**

14 (f) **Better application of systems thinking and increased ability to think creatively.**

15 (g) **Improved communication skills and enhanced ability to work in group settings.**

16 (h) **Greater enthusiasm for language arts, math, science and social studies.**

17 (i) **Increased knowledge and understanding of science content, concepts and processes.**

18 (j) **Better ability to apply science and civic processes to real-world situations.**

19 (k) **Improved understanding of mathematical concepts and mastery of math skills.**

20 (L) **Improved language arts skills.**

21 (m) **Better comprehension of social studies content.**

22 (n) **Accessibility to students of all abilities and learning styles.**

23 (5)(a) **The Director of the Oregon State University Extension Service shall convene an**
24 **advisory committee for the purpose of administering the grant program established under**
25 **this section. When selecting the members of the committee, the director shall take into**
26 **consideration geographic and demographic diversity and shall ensure that the committee has**
27 **representatives of the environmental community, the natural resources community and**
28 **fifth-grade or sixth-grade education.**

29 (b) **The advisory committee shall recommend to the director:**

30 (A) **Standards for outdoor school programs; and**

31 (B) **Distributions of moneys for outdoor school programs.**

32 (6) **The Oregon State University Extension Service shall provide program leadership of**
33 **outdoor school programs, including:**

34 (a) **Providing program management and administration;**

35 (b) **Convening an advisory committee to assist with management activities;**

36 (c) **Distributing grants and entering into contracts and other agreements related to fi-**
37 **nancing;**

38 (d) **Providing procurement services;**

39 (e) **Complying with reporting requirements; and**

40 (f) **Ensuring compliance with program requirements.**

41 (7) **The Oregon State University Extension Service shall provide program maintenance,**
42 **including:**

43 (a) **Conducting program reviews and implementing program revisions;**

44 (b) **Making quality assessments and monitoring the program for quality;**

45 (c) **Evaluating outputs and impacts of outdoor school programs;**

1 (d) Engaging in camp development, including the selection, management and coordination
2 of camps; and

3 (e) Conducting risk management.

4 (8) The director shall submit an annual report to:

5 (a) The Department of Education, related to the ability of outdoor school programs to
6 assist students in meeting state standards related to science, technology, engineering and
7 mathematics, and international standards related to science; and

8 (b) The interim legislative committees on education, related to grant programs.

9 **SECTION 3.** (1) The Outdoor Education Account is established in the State Treasury,
10 separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Outdoor Education
11 Account shall be credited to the account.

12 (2) Moneys in the Outdoor Education Account are continuously appropriated to the
13 Higher Education Coordinating Commission for use by the Oregon State University Extension
14 Service for outdoor school programs under section 2 of this 2015 Act.

15 **SECTION 4.** In addition to any duties imposed on the Oregon State University Extension
16 Service under section 2 of this 2015 Act, the service shall:

17 (1) Develop and review outdoor school program curricula;

18 (2) Design outdoor school program lessons that are available on websites and mobile de-
19 vices;

20 (3) Develop outdoor school program learning modules and materials;

21 (4) Implement the outdoor school program;

22 (5) Develop best practices for providing outdoor school programs; and

23 (6) Provide staff training related to outdoor school programs.

24 **SECTION 5.** Section 4 of this 2015 Act is repealed on July 1, 2017.

25 **SECTION 6.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
26 ated to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, for the biennium beginning July
27 1, 2015, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$44,000,000, for deposit in the Outdoor Edu-
28 cation Account established under section 3 of this 2015 Act.

29 **SECTION 7.** This 2015 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
30 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2015 Act takes effect
31 July 1, 2015.

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