

SB 1520 A -A6 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 3/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Implements changes in ten areas of state law related to education. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

1. Expands 90-day grace period for employment to all licensees who are licensed by Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC). Allows TSPC to adopt the same expedited process for issuance of licenses as was in place prior to passage of Senate Bill 205 (2017);
2. Removes moot references to institutions of higher education in public charter school law;
3. Consolidates reporting requirements for Higher Education Coordinating Commission based on recommendations of work group resulting from Senate Bill 113 (2015);
4. Clarifies school district obligations related to offering of half-day kindergarten;
5. Provides that Network of Quality Teaching and Learning is established within Chief Education Office;
6. Extends by two years sunset on provisions that allow individuals who are foreign exchange students and who are residing in Oregon in dormitory operated by school district to be considered residents of school district in which dormitory is located;
7. Extends by three years the time by which educator preparation programs must comply with certain national organization accreditation requirements;
8. Provides that moneys in National Board Certification Fund may be distributed only to persons who are licensed by TSPC and who are employed with public educational program;
9. Removes sunset on provision that virtual public charter schools may contract with for-profit entity to provide educational services if employee is administrator and meets other requirements; and
10. Clarifies requirements for Oregon Department of Education mentoring grants.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A6 Removes provisions related to virtual public charter school administrators. Makes conforming amendments.

BACKGROUND:

The Senate Education Committee will sometimes in short sessions draft a measure to address broadly agreed-upon technical changes to education law. The last effort was Senate Bill 1525 during the 2014 legislative session.

Senate Bill 1520-A makes a series of technical changes requested by a number of agencies and stakeholder groups. These include the 90-day grace period for employment to persons waiting on a license request to be processed. Districts cannot hire teachers to fill empty positions prior to their licensure through TSPC. The bill requires TSPC to determine if an applicant passed a criminal records check and a background check. If so, the applicant is allowed to teach for 90 days while their application is being processed.

The measure removes from statute language relating to the ability of institutes of higher education and community colleges, a public university or OHSU to sponsor a public charter school. The eligibility for these entities to sponsor public charter schools sunset in 2017.

Senate Bill 1520-A adds language to clarify schools offering full day kindergarten are not required to also offer half day kindergarten.

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Language in legislation remains that reflects past licensure model systems and prevents certain educators and administrators from receiving mentoring. Senate Bill 1520-A revises language to reflect current structures of licensure and makes slight adjustments to the Beginning Teacher and Administrator Mentorship Program by requiring that the administrator or teacher hold a license from TSPC and no longer allowing a preliminary license to suffice.