

HB 2942 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 03/18/21

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Education by prior reference. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 6-4-0-0

Yeas: 6 - Bynum, Dexter, Helm, Kropf, Power, Wilde

Nays: 4 - Lewis, Morgan, Noble, Wallan

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/11, 3/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Gives the Teachers Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC), discretion regarding whether to refuse to issue a license or registration to a person who has been convicted of certain nonviolent crimes (prostitution and certain drug offenses) or who has been convicted of an attempt to commit one of those crimes. Directs the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to disclose to the school district the crime for which a person has been convicted, except when prohibited by state or federal law, if a contractor or employee has been convicted of a crime. Allows the school district to choose whether to employ or contract with a person convicted of one of the listed crimes. Allows the TSPC to revoke a license or registration if the person has been convicted of any of the listed crimes.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Enabling the TSPC to look at the totality of a person's circumstances before issuing a license and not just criminal history in isolation
- School district's ability to request additional information from an applicant
- Elimination of the five-year time period that was included in the -7 amendments
- Desire to allow for second chances
- Concerns about lowering the standards for those to which we entrust our children and allowing bad actors to teach in schools

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

The Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) is Oregon's licensing agency for all educators. The TSPC was established in 1965 to maintain and improve performance in the education profession by approving teacher preparation programs offered by Oregon colleges and universities by licensing teachers, administrators, and other personnel employed in Oregon schools and by taking disciplinary actions when educators commit crimes or violate Standards for Competent and Ethical Performance.

House Bill 2942 A removes certain nonviolent crimes from the list of crimes that create automatic ineligibility for being issued a license or registration by the TSPC and provides the TSPC with discretion to refuse to issue a license or registration.