A-Engrossed

Senate Bill 594

Ordered by the Senate April 22
Including Senate Amendments dated April 22

Sponsored by Senator FREDERICK (Presession 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.

[Prohibits school district boards from authorizing, and school districts from using, certain monitoring software related to students' computer usage.]

Directs Legislative Policy and Research Office to conduct study on software that can be used to monitor student's usage related to district-owned computers and similar devices and district Internet services and to produce summary of study.

Sunsets December 31, 2022.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to monitoring software used in education; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. (1) As used in this section, “monitoring software” means software that can be used to monitor a person's usage of computers and similar devices or usage of Internet services.

(2) The Legislative Policy and Research Office shall conduct a study on monitoring software that can be used to monitor a student's usage related to:

(a) District-owned computers and similar devices; and

(b) District Internet services.

(3) The office shall conduct the study required under this section with a consideration of equity and by consulting with:

(a) School districts;

(b) Education service districts;

(c) Experts in information technology;

(d) Experts in cybersecurity;

(e) Students and families from currently and historically underserved and underrepresented communities;

(f) Public health authorities;

(g) Sexual assault organizations;

(h) The Department of Human Services;

(i) The Department of Education; and

(j) The Department of Justice.

(4) The study conducted under this section shall include:

(a) A summary of existing state and federal statutes relevant to monitoring software

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.

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that may be used in education.

(b) A review of automated video-based monitoring software that may be used in education. In this review, the office shall study:

(A) The types of automated video-based monitoring software available to, or currently used in, education, including:

(i) The purpose of the software;
(ii) The information collected and used from the software;
(iii) How information from the software is shared; and
(iv) Who receives information collected from the software;

(B) Ways that monitoring software could potentially benefit school districts, students and students' families, including assisting with the provision of education or the administration of assessments or protecting the health, safety and welfare of students;

(C) Ways that monitoring software could potentially be harmful to school districts, students and students' families, including whether the software could exacerbate harm to currently and historically underserved and underrepresented students; and

(D) The financial impact of monitoring software on school districts.

(c) Recommendations for policies related to the use of video-based monitoring software that may be used in kindergarten through grade 12 educational settings and that take equity into consideration.

(5) The Legislative and Policy Research Director may enter into a contract with a private or public entity for the purpose of conducting the study required under this section.

(6) The office shall produce a summary of the study conducted under this section to enable state and local leaders to consider policy issues and to make policy decisions. The office shall provide the summary to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to education no later than September 1, 2022.

SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2021 Act is repealed on December 31, 2022.

SECTION 3. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect on its passage.