



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

TEACHER STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION

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TO: The Honorable Representative Teresa Alonso Leon and esteemed members of the Oregon House Committee on Education

FROM: Dr. Anthony Rosilez, Executive Director.
Trent J. Danowski, Deputy Director.

RE: 2021 Regular Session - House Bill 2136

Representative Alonso Leon and Members of the House Committee on Education,

The Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) offers the following information with respect to House Bill 2136, which TSPC considers to be a bill purposed with making necessary technical fixes to Oregon Revised Statute established with the passage of Senate Bill 155 during the 2019 legislative session. House Bill 2136 creates a definition for the term “Commission Licensee” and inserts this term into revised statute to replace terminology in statute which is not applicable to TSPC.

In 2019, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 155 which created a definition for the term “Sexual Conduct” and mandates investigatory actions from state agencies, including the Department of Human Services (DHS), the Department of Education (ODE), and TSPC, in response to alleged sexual conduct by “licensed school employees, contractors, agents, or volunteers”. As the state agency for educator professional licensure, TSPC’s jurisdiction to investigate any individual is limited by ORS 342.175, and the investigation of contractors, agents, and volunteers typically falls outside of authorities granted to TSPC by this statute.

House Bill 2136 would clarify statute language, specifying the exact persons TSPC has the authority to investigate under ORS 342.175 by inserting the newly defined term “Commission Licensee”. It is important to note that the bill retains language in revised statute which ensures that contractors, agents, and volunteers alleged to have committed sexual conduct in schools, and who don’t fit the definition of “Commission Licensee”, are still investigated appropriately by law enforcement, DHS, and ODE.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this information.

If I can provide any further information on this topic, please contact me at trent.danowski@oregon.gov.