

**SB 1521 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Carrier:** Rep. Smith Warner

**House Committee On Education**

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**Action Date:** 02/22/22

**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

**Vote:** 6-4-0-0

**Yeas:** 6 - Alonso Leon, Hudson, Neron, Reardon, Ruiz, Smith Warner

**Nays:** 4 - George, Owens, Weber, Wright

**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/15, 2/17, 2/22

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Establishes job protections for school district superintendents. Establishes conditions that must be met to terminate superintendents without cause. Protects superintendents from termination for complying with local, state, or federal law. Defines local, state, or federal law as directives having the force of law, including ordinances, city or county resolutions, statutes, court decisions, administrative rules or regulations, orders issued in compliance with the state's administrative procedure laws, executive orders, or any other directives, declarations, or statements that have the force of law and are issued by local, state, or federal government entities. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Benefits of superintendent stability
- Authority of school boards
- Jurisdictions of local, state, and federal governments

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Removes definition of state or federal law. Inserts definition of local, state, or federal law that includes directives having the force of law, including ordinances, city or county resolutions, statutes, court decisions, administrative rules or regulations, orders issued in compliance with the state's administrative procedure laws, executive orders, or any other directives, declarations or statements that have the force of law and are issued by local, state, or federal government entities.

**BACKGROUND:**

Oregon's education statutes provide local control to school districts, within the context of the Legislative Assembly's authority over statewide policy and the delegation of authority to the State Board of Education. ORS 332.075 establishes the powers of locally elected school boards. One of the central responsibilities of locally elected school boards is to hire district superintendents, who generally are hired via contract for a specified number of years. During 2021, several local school boards terminated superintendents prior to the end of their contracts, including in the Greater Albany Public School District and in the Adrian School District.

Senate Bill 1521 A establishes certain job protections for school district superintendents.