

SB 421 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to establish work group to develop standards for selecting members of youth advisory council. Establishes work group membership and responsibilities. Requires work group to begin meeting by October 31, 2023. Establishes youth advisory council with membership appointed by the Governor. Establishes consultation requirements. Requires ODE to ensure that members of youth advisory council have support, resources, access to counseling, mental health support, and tutoring; access to an adult mentor; opportunities to provide peer support or be a youth mentor. Establishes duties of youth advisory council, including reporting requirements and meeting requirements. Requires ODE to provide staff support to youth advisory council. Declares emergency, takes effect July 1, 2023.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In the summer of 2020, the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators (COSA) invited students of color to share their experiences of racism in Oregon schools with district and school administrators. During the open Zoom meeting, an intruder disrupted the event, using a red digital marker to cross out the photos of the student presenters. After this event, COSA, along with REAP Inc, the Oregon Association of Student Councils, and the Oregon Association of Secondary School Administrators worked to address the students' concerns. These organizations worked with students and educators to draft House Bill 3363 A in 2021, which would have established a Racial Equity and Justice Student Collaborative to help student leaders shape Oregon's education system.

Senate Bill 421 establishes a youth advisory council.