

SB 275 A -A5 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 4/26, 5/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Repeals changes made to Educator Advancement Council (EAC) by House Bill 2166 (2021). Directs Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) to consult with EAC to determine whether to merge TSPC into ODE. Requires each entity to identify its role as well as methods for improving alignment and coordination, structures to decrease or hold steady fees charged for licensure, benefits and drawbacks of merger, and steps necessary to implement merger. Requires presentation of findings to interim committees of Legislative Assembly by December 31, 2024. Sunsets January 2, 2025. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

SENATE VOTE: Passed. Ayes, 22; Nays, 7; Excused, 1.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Problems implementing House Bill 2166 (2021)
- Alignment of the state's education agencies

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A5 Changes date of presentation to December 31, 2023.

BACKGROUND:

The Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) was established in 1965. Prior to that time, the State Board of Education oversaw licensing of teachers and Oregon had a separate commission on teacher tenure. Originally, TSPC was responsible for conducting a study and making recommendations to the State Board and was staffed by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE). Changes to the law in 1973 allowed TSPC to hire its own staff, including an executive secretary. In 1997, the law changed again, allowing TSPC to hire an executive director. TSPC consists of a 17-member commission supported by 31 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff. The agency is responsible for issuing licenses, approving educator preparation programs, approving nontraditional pathways to licensure, approving professional development for license renewals, and investigating misconduct. TSPC is wholly fee-funded and receives no General Fund appropriations.

In 2017, the Legislative Assembly enacted Senate Bill 182, establishing the Educator Advancement Council (EAC) under an intergovernmental agreement. The intergovernmental agreement was executed on March 20, 2018. Parties to the agreement were the Chief Education Office, ODE, Early Learning Division, TSPC, High Desert Education Service District, and Beaverton School District. Under the provisions of Senate Bill 182, parties to the agreement could appoint members to the Council. A majority of those Council members could then appoint others. Staff support was provided by the Chief Education Office until its sunset in 2019. Since that time, staff support has been provided by ODE.

EAC has an executive director and is responsible for professional development for educators, establishing and maintaining a set of Regional Educator Networks (RENs), conducting a biennial survey of the state's educators, issuing grow-your-own grants, and drafting a biennial educator equity report. EAC is supported by 14.6 FTE staff.

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.

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In 2021, House Bill 2166 modified the requirements for EAC's intergovernmental agreement, allowing the Council to appoint a director who could then hire staff. However, EAC was not made an independent state agency.

Senate Bill 275 A repeals the changes to the EAC enacted in 2021 and requires the executive branch to identify the roles of and methods for improving alignment among the state's education agencies.

PRELIMINARY