

SB 1502 -2, -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/6, 2/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires public education governing boards to livestream meetings and post recordings online. It does not apply to executive sessions. It requires boards to allow testimony via phone or internet at meetings where the board permits in-person oral testimony. Effective January 1, 2025.

May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

Detailed Summary:

Specifies that the measure applies to the governing boards of common or union high school districts, education service districts, community college districts, and public universities described in [ORS 352.002](#). Directs boards to livestream every meeting, if technically practicable. Requires boards, within seven days of each meeting, to post video or audio recordings of the meeting to the district, college, or university website or social media site. Exempts from these requirements any meeting or portion of a meeting that is conducted in executive session. Requires that public education governing boards, notwithstanding this exemption for executive sessions, permit oral testimony by phone, video, or other virtual means if the meeting permits in-person oral testimony. Effective January 1, 2025.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Benefits of increased government transparency and access for public participation
- Ease and low cost of video recording and livestreaming for boards
- Provisions of amendment
- Concerns about involvement of individuals outside of school communities
- Potential for recordings to be reposted on social media
- Training for school board members
- Date requirements for posted recording

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 The amendment removes the requirement that boards livestream meetings and the requirement that boards permit remote testimony if their meetings permit in-person testimony. The amendment provides that if a board's facilities lack broadband internet, then the board may post audio instead of video on its website or social media site. The amendment retains the measure's exemption for executive sessions.

-3 The amendment removes the requirement that boards livestream meetings and the requirement that boards permit remote testimony if their meetings permit in-person testimony. The amendment provides that if a board's facilities lack broadband internet, then the board may post audio instead of video on its website or social media site. The amendment retains the measure's exemption for executive sessions. It adds an exemption for school districts of less than 50 students in resident average daily membership.

BACKGROUND:

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Oregon public education boards have a variety of practices regarding remote meeting participation and recordings. [Beaverton School Board](#) allows public Zoom participation and posts video recordings. [David Douglas School Board](#) livestreams its meetings and posts video recordings. [Klamath County School Board](#) allows the public Zoom participation in board meetings. [Roseburg School Board](#) posts video recordings. [Seaside School Board](#) permits virtual participation via Zoom.

Other state legislatures have recently passed or are currently considering bills to increase the public's online access to school board meetings. For example, [Indiana's House Bill 1167 \(2023\)](#) requires all government meetings, including those of school boards, to be livestreamed starting in 2025, and [New Mexico's Senate Bill 137 \(2024\)](#) would require school boards to livestream meetings and to make video recordings of meetings publicly available online.