

SB 1534 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 2/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure allows schools to hire people who are not licensed or registered teachers to teach reading. The measure declares an emergency and is effective on passage.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

Detailed Summary:

Allows a school district, education service district, or charter school to employ a person not licensed or registered with the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission to teach reading to students. Allows districts or schools to prescribe any requirements for the employment of a person to teach reading. States that persons employed to teach reading under this provision are not considered teachers for purposes of state and federal law. Declares an emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

[The Teachers Standards and Practices Commission](#), established in 1965, is the licensing agency for all educators in Oregon. The TSPC and Oregon Department of Education (ODE) collaborate to issue a [Course to Endorsement Catalogue](#) which identifies the courses that teachers are authorized to teach. ORS 342.173 states that any school district or education service district that employs a person not licensed or registered by the Teachers Standards and Practices Commission is subject to sanctions imposed by the commission, unless the assignment is made with justification satisfactory for the commission or the person employed meets other standards prescribed in statute.

In 2023, the legislative assembly enacted House Bill 3198 to fund and encourage science-based reading instruction in Oregon. That same year, Governor Kotek issued executive order 23-12 to establish an [Early Literacy Educator Preparation Council](#) to work with educator preparation programs to ensure that teachers of reading in Oregon are prepared to strengthen the preparation of teachers and school administrators to instruct elementary students on reading and writing.