

**SENATE MINORITY REPORT
AMENDMENTS TO
A-ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 1583**

By Nonconcurring Members of COMMITTEE ON RULES

February 26

1 On page 1 of the printed A-engrossed bill, line 2, after the first semicolon delete the rest of the
2 line.

3 After line 3, insert:

4 “Whereas the Legislative Assembly finds that access to educational and library materials in
5 Oregon schools has a direct and long-lasting generational impact that requires in-depth study and
6 broad understanding; and

7 “Whereas the Legislative Assembly finds that discrimination has no place in the State of Oregon
8 or in the selection of educational materials for student curriculum and books for school libraries;
9 and

10 “Whereas the Legislative Assembly finds that the fundamental right to freedom of speech is a
11 cornerstone of a healthy society and state; and

12 “Whereas Oregon appropriated \$10.2 billion for distribution through the State School Fund for
13 the 2023-2025 biennium, and the average operating expenditure in the 2021-2022 school year was
14 \$16,574 per student; and

15 “Whereas 75 percent of eighth graders in Oregon could not reach reading proficiency targets
16 in 2022; and

17 “Whereas the Legislative Assembly finds that no one has a more vested interest in the quality
18 of their youth’s education and curriculum than the parents within each local community where they
19 live; and

20 “Whereas the United States Supreme Court has recognized the importance of balancing free
21 speech and the rights of parents and students regarding the curriculum within students’ classrooms;
22 and

23 “Whereas the Director of the Department of Education has publicly stated a desire to issue
24 ‘sanctions’ against local school districts and a willingness to ‘take over school districts’ if necessary;
25 and

26 “Whereas the community of Canby, Oregon, exhibited the best of Oregon by engaging local
27 community stakeholders throughout the review process of educational materials by empowering
28 students, parents, teachers, librarians, community leaders and others in the balancing of their
29 students’ rights to both free speech and their adolescence; and

30 “Whereas the Legislative Assembly finds that books do exist that are inappropriate and that
31 should not be in our schools because they contain graphic violence, are sexually explicit, contain
32 vulgar language, lack literary merit or educational value or are not age appropriate; and

33 “Whereas A-engrossed Senate Bill 1583 has enormous unknown impacts and implications that
34 demand thoughtful and complete consideration from a wide variety of diverse viewpoints and expert

1 opinions before embarking on a course potentially riddled with negative consequences; and

2 “Whereas the curricula and libraries of the public schools of this state should be as diverse as
3 the people who make up the State of Oregon and should be filled with age-appropriate materials;
4 and

5 “Whereas a task force should be established to study access to educational and library materials
6 in Oregon public schools and to ensure the preservation of local control of our 197 school boards
7 in the review of educational and library materials for enrolled children and youth; now,
8 therefore.”

9 Delete lines 5 through 25 and delete pages 2 and 3 and insert:

10 **“SECTION 1. (1) The Task Force on Accessibility to Public School Materials is estab-**
11 **lished.**

12 **“(2) The task force consists of 17 members appointed as follows:**

13 **“(a) The President of the Senate shall appoint one member from the majority party of**
14 **the Senate;**

15 **“(b) The Senate Minority Leader shall appoint one member from a minority party of the**
16 **Senate;**

17 **“(c) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint one member from the**
18 **majority party of the House of Representatives;**

19 **“(d) The House Minority Leader shall appoint one member from a minority party of the**
20 **House of Representatives; and**

21 **“(e) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in**
22 **consultation with the Senate Minority Leader and the House Minority Leader, shall jointly**
23 **appoint 13 members as follows:**

24 **“(A) One member who is a representative from a statewide association that represents**
25 **school boards;**

26 **“(B) One member who is a representative of the Department of Education;**

27 **“(C) Six members who are parents of children enrolled in the public schools of this state,**
28 **with one member representing each congressional district of this state;**

29 **“(D) One member who is a representative of a statewide organization related to school**
30 **libraries;**

31 **“(E) One member who is a representative of a statewide association that primarily re-**
32 **presents licensed educators;**

33 **“(F) One member who is a representative of a statewide coalition that represents school**
34 **administrators;**

35 **“(G) One member who is a representative of a statewide organization that represents**
36 **education service districts; and**

37 **“(H) One member who is a representative of public charter schools.**

38 **“(3) The task force shall:**

39 **“(a) Review the provisions of A-engrossed Senate Bill 1583;**

40 **“(b) Identify recommendations for potential legislation to be introduced for the 2025**
41 **regular legislative session;**

42 **“(c) Identify constitutional constraints for the regulation of curricula or library books**
43 **that contain graphic violence, are sexually explicit, contain vulgar language or lack literary**
44 **merit or educational value;**

45 **“(d) Identify and make recommendations for ways to better establish standards for age-**

1 appropriate curriculum; and

2 “(e) Study legal barriers and litigation that have arisen for local school boards in relation
3 to applying age-appropriate standards for school libraries.

4 “(4) For the purpose of performing the duties specified in subsection (3) of this section,
5 the task force shall invite the provision of public testimony.

6 “(5) A majority of the voting members of the task force constitutes a quorum for the
7 transaction of business.

8 “(6) Official action by the task force requires the approval of a majority of the voting
9 members of the task force.

10 “(7) The task force shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

11 “(8) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the appointing authority shall make an appoint-
12 ment to become immediately effective.

13 “(9) The task force shall meet at least four times before December 15, 2024. Meetings
14 shall be at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson or of a majority of the
15 voting members of the task force.

16 “(10) The task force may adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task force.

17 “(11) The task force shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and
18 may include recommendations for legislation, to an interim committee of the Legislative
19 Assembly related to education no later than December 31, 2024.

20 “(12) The Legislative Policy and Research Director shall provide staff support to the task
21 force.

22 “(13) Members of the Legislative Assembly appointed to the task force are nonvoting
23 members of the task force and may act in an advisory capacity only.

24 “(14) Members of the task force who are not members of the Legislative Assembly are
25 not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses and serve as volunteers on the
26 task force.

27 “(15) All agencies of state government, as defined in ORS 174.111, are directed to assist
28 the task force in the performance of the duties of the task force and, to the extent permitted
29 by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the task
30 force consider necessary to perform their duties.

31 “SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2024 Act is repealed on January 2, 2025.

32 “SECTION 3. This 2024 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
33 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2024 Act takes effect
34 on its passage.”.

35 /s/ Bill Hansell
36 Senator

37 /s/ Tim Knopp
38 Senator

39 _____
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