

**Enrolled**  
**House Bill 2556**

Sponsored by Representative GRAYBER, Senator LIEBER; Representative ISADORE, Senators FREDERICK, PHAM K, REYNOLDS, WAGNER (Pre-session filed.)

CHAPTER .....

AN ACT

Relating to Portland State University designation.

Whereas Portland State University was founded in 1946 to provide access to higher education and opportunity for veterans returning home from World War II; and

Whereas Portland State University plays a pivotal role in Portland’s urban renaissance, leading efforts to revitalize the city’s economy, infrastructure, and environment through sustainability initiatives, climate resilience research, and community-engaged partnerships that promote equitable development and urban innovation; and

Whereas Portland State University now offers world-class graduate programs and serves as a leader in graduate research that drives economic development and urban revitalization; and

Whereas Portland State University remains the only public urban research university in this state, located in the state’s largest metropolitan area, and has grown into Oregon’s most diverse public research university, with more than 20,000 students and more than 200 degree programs that serve more low-income, first-generation, transfer and diverse students than any other university in Oregon; and

Whereas Portland State University’s motto “Let Knowledge Serve the City” embodies the institution’s role as Oregon’s public urban research university; and

Whereas an urban research university is defined as an institution of higher education having one or more campus locations based at an urban center that reflects the diversity of the region’s urban centers, serves as a hub for urban economic development by collaborating with policymakers and business leaders throughout the State, and applies education and research to inform urban public policy; and

Whereas urban research universities provide high quality education at the undergraduate and graduate levels to underrepresented and underserved populations, predominantly commuter students, who would otherwise encounter numerous obstacles to advance beyond secondary education; and

Whereas, 54 percent of Portland State’s Fall 2023 first year class was first generation and 58 percent were BIPOC, representing the third year of a majority BIPOC first year class; and

Whereas Portland State University serves 6,670 Pell Grant recipients and 5,945 Oregon Opportunity Grant recipients; and

Whereas urban research universities play a vital and unique role in changing the face of professions that have historically been homogenous and monolithic, such as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, architecture, clinical sciences, and public health, and urban research universities enrich the diversity of the university student population, promote inclusion, and nurture diversity of thought to the problem solving of society’s most challenging issues; and

Whereas Portland State University was awarded a 5-year grant under its Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander (AANAPISI) designation in 2023, making it the largest federally funded minority-serving institution in Oregon; and

Whereas Portland State University has been recognized through competitive research grants from federal agencies, supporting public-impact research that addresses critical societal issues, including sustainability, economic equity, and public health, and enhancing its role as a national leader in research excellence; and

Whereas Portland State University leads interdisciplinary research centers and collaborates with public universities across Oregon, fostering innovative research that addresses local, regional, and global challenges; and

Whereas Portland State University has received awards from state and federal agencies to begin and continue research projects surrounding renewable energy storage; and

Whereas Portland State University does research that deepens the understanding of how renewable energy transitions impact communities, and how to minimize the negative impacts that renewable energy transitions can have on underserved communities; and

Whereas Portland State University has researchers traveling and examining climate and sustainability issues globally; and

Whereas Portland State University is a hub of world-class transportation research, conducted within the Transportation Research and Education Center, which has been funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation; and

Whereas Portland State University works with sister centers at partner universities to conduct public-impact research that improves mobility and builds strong communities; and

Whereas Portland State University continues to connect to and produce a highly skilled workforce through undergraduate education and advanced graduate programs, serving Oregon's nexus of growing, innovative technology industries and public agencies; and

Whereas Portland State University prepares students for competitive jobs in emerging and high-demand industries such as semiconductors, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, smart grids and clean technology, climate change and resilience, and through comprehensive undergraduate education, advanced graduate training, and specialized doctoral research programs that equip students with cutting-edge skills and expertise for leadership in these fields; and

Whereas Portland State University started from humble beginnings to become a world-class research university and a recognized leader in social mobility and equitable workforce development in Oregon and across the globe; and

Whereas Portland State University continues to lead community-engaged research in the state's urban core; and

Whereas Portland State University is recognized for its impact in the research sector locally, statewide and nationally; now, therefore,

**Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

**SECTION 1. Portland State University is designated and shall be known as Oregon's Urban Research University.**

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**Passed by House February 18, 2025**

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Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

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Julie Fahey, Speaker of House

**Passed by Senate May 22, 2025**

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Rob Wagner, President of Senate

**Received by Governor:**

.....M,....., 2025

**Approved:**

.....M,....., 2025

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Tina Kotek, Governor

**Filed in Office of Secretary of State:**

.....M,....., 2025

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Tobias Read, Secretary of State