

## HB 4066 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Education

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**Prepared By:** Ellen O'Brien, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/17, 2/24

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure makes a series of changes to Oregon education laws affecting the Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) Board of Directors, education service districts (ESDs), the Military Interstate Children's Compact, the State Board of Education, school district budget committees, and a study of farmworker labor standards by Portland State University (PSU). It declares an emergency and takes effect on passage.

#### Detailed Summary

- Requires the OHSU Board of Directors to meet four times per year rather than every three months and prohibits the student member of the OHSU Board of Directors from participating in discussions or actions on collective bargaining
- Allows ESD boards to offer board members a stipend of up to \$500 per month and extends the date by which ESDs must comply with state light bulb requirements
- Updates references to federal statute in the Military Interstate Children's Compact
- Grants rulemaking authority to the State Board of Education in areas of statute that incorrectly grant such authority to the Oregon Department of Education
- Exempts school districts from including a member of its educational equity committee on its budget committee if no members are willing or able to serve
- Alters the reporting requirements for PSU's study of farmworker labor standards and workplace protections

HOUSE VOTE: Ayes, 40; Nays, 13

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure
- Method for verifying that no educational equity committee members are willing or able to serve on the budget committee
- Prevalance of school district boards offering stipends

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

#### BACKGROUND:

##### **OHSU Board Meetings**

In 1995, the Legislative Assembly converted OHSU from a public university to a public corporation and established a board of directors. Under ORS 353.040, the OHSU Board of Directors must meet at least once every three months; in practice, this means the board meets at least five times per year. Under ORS 352.076, public university governing boards must meet at least four times per year.

Senate Bill 273 (2023) made a number of changes to the composition and requirements of the seven public university governing boards, which do not include OHSU's board. In addition to adding graduate and undergraduate student members, the measure prohibited those student members from participating in collective bargaining issues affecting students.

##### **Stipends for ESD Boards**

House Bill 2753 (2023) allowed local school district boards to offer stipends of up to \$500 per month to members,

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

with provisions for reimbursing certain expenses and for members to refuse the stipends. ESD boards were not included in that legislation.

**Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children**

In 2025, the Military Interstate Children’s Compact notified the Oregon Department of Education of an error in the compact’s model law that every state, including Oregon, enacted. The error is in the definition of “active duty,” which should not include references to 32 USC 502(f).

**State Board of Education Rulemaking Authority**

The rulemaking body for the Oregon Department of Education is the State Board of Education. Occasionally, legislation is enacted that erroneously gives rulemaking authority to the department rather than the state board.

**School District Budget Committees**

Senate Bill 732 (2021) enacted a requirement that school districts establish equity advisory committees, and House Bill 2453 (2025) modified the structure within which those committees operate. Current law requires school district boards to place a member of the equity advisory committee on the district’s budget committee. However, some school districts report challenges locating a member of the equity advisory committee who is willing to serve on the budget committee.

**Study Conducted by PSU**

In 2025, House Bill 2548 required PSU’s Center for Public Service to conduct a study to examine the labor standards, working experiences, and workplace protections for farmworkers in Oregon. The measure required two interim reports starting in May 2026 and required the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to submit the reports on behalf of PSU. For the HECC to meet the May deadline, PSU would need to complete its report by March.

**Lamps Purchased by ESDs**

In 2023, House Bill 2531 prohibited the sale and the distribution in or into Oregon of new screw or bayonet-base type compact fluorescent lamps and new pin-base type compact fluorescent lamps and linear fluorescent lamps. House Bill 2531 provided exemptions for certain scientific, image capturing, research, and manufacturing purposes. In 2025, House Bill 2307 extended the deadline to comply with this law for school districts.