

SB 1537 A -A2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 2/23, 2/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires each member of a community college district board to have an official, publicly available email address; requires each board to include at least one nonvoting student member; and requires a community college district board to fill a vacancy within 90 days, or else requires the relevant board of county commissioners to fill the vacancy. The measure declares an emergency, effective on its passage.

SENATE VOTE: Ayes, 21; Nays, 9

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of the measure
- Role of student board member

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-A2 The amendment prohibits the nonvoting student member from participating in any executive session of the board, rather than allowing each district board to create its own rules governing their participation.

BACKGROUND:

Community college district boards' duties and powers are enumerated in Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 341. Boards are composed of seven elected members who serve four-year terms. Oregon currently has [17 community college districts](#), which cover most, but not all, of the state.

Senate Bill 1537 A redrafts provisions of Senate Bill 478 (2025), which was not enacted. Senate Bill 273 (2023) addressed similar issues for public university governing boards, including adding undergraduate student and graduate student members to governing boards; prohibiting student members from attending any executive session of the board involving collective bargaining issues that affect students; and requiring governing boards to publish institutional email addresses for all board members.