



May 3, 2013

## OSBA Bill Spotlight: OEIB proposal gets strong bipartisan support in House

On Thursday the House of Representatives voted 48-8 to send **House Bill 2640** to the state Senate for its consideration.

The final version of the bill combined two proposals: House Bill 2538, sponsored by Hood River County School Board member and State Rep. Mark Johnson (R-Hood River), which added one board position to the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) to be filled by a school board member, with the original proposal in the bill to add a position to the OEIB that must be filled by a PTA member.

Currently, the OEIB is made up of 12 members appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate; the governor serves as chair. The board includes members who are teachers, superintendents, union leaders, business leaders, professors, academics and representatives of social service non-profits; there is not a sitting school board member or parent representative.

During floor debate, Rep. Johnson told his House colleagues that school boards are ultimately responsible for student achievement and implementing the laws and policies put in place by OEIB and the Legislature. He argued that the OEIB needs the school board perspective and on-the-ground experiences to help inform its policy deliberations.

The handful of “no” votes appear to be because of concerns that not every school district has PTA chapters. Rep. Julie Parrish (R-Tualatin/West Linn) noted that she supported the addition of a parent and school board member to the OEIB, but had reservations about the bill because not all parents have access to a local PTA.

The bill now heads to the Senate Education Committee. OSBA, PTA and others will testify in favor of the bill and tell senators that the voice and vote of parents and school board members is glaringly absent from the OEIB. Without a seat at the table, two of the critical stakeholder groups do not have equal representation.

If you have any questions about the bill, or would like to add your voice in support of the legislation, contact Morgan Allen at [mallen@osba.org](mailto:mallen@osba.org).

View HB 2640:

<http://www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?s=13&t=&r=&q=2640&c=50&key=HB%2026400&ptadd=:%20HB%202640%20Details>

## Ways and Means committee considers P-20 “Strategic Investments”

On Wednesday and Thursday the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education held public hearings on strategic investments in Oregon’s public education system proposed by Governor Kitzhaber and the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB).

Chief Education Officer Rudy Crew and OEIB Policy Director Whitney Grubbs outlined the funding proposals contained in **House Bill 3232**. Find a copy of their full presentation to the committee here: <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2013R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/21622>

House Bill 3232 proposes about \$34 million in state investments to impact outcomes in three areas:

- *Oregon Early Reading Program (Oregon Reads):* Increase early literacy opportunities for children with a particular focus on increasing the number of kindergartners “ready for school” and increasing the number of students K-3 that are reading at grade level. Proposed state investment: \$9.2 million, including \$7 million for Focus and Priority schools and expansion of Response to Intervention programs.
- *Guidance and Support for Post-Secondary Aspirations:* Increase the number of students on-track for graduation at the end of 9th grade to 85% and focus on increasing post-secondary enrollment for “underserved” students. Proposed state investment: \$10.4 million, including funds to expand ASPIRE programs, summer and extended learning programs for struggling students and funds to expand dual credit, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate opportunities.
- *Connecting to the World of Work:* Increase the number of students who graduate from high school with nine or more college credits to 65

percent, increase proficiency in middle school math and science by 15 percent and ensure at least 90 percent of students who graduate from the Oregon education system are employed within 12 months. Proposed state investment: \$13.5 million, including increased funding for STEM, STEAM and career technical education programs.

The Ways and Means Co-Chairs proposed budget assumes funding for these priorities (page 4 of budget). Contact Morgan Allen at [mallen@osba.org](mailto:mallen@osba.org) if you have additional questions.

View Co-Chairs proposed budget:  
[http://www.leg.state.or.us/comm/lfo/2013-2015/2013-15JWMCo-ChairsBudget\\_030413.pdf](http://www.leg.state.or.us/comm/lfo/2013-2015/2013-15JWMCo-ChairsBudget_030413.pdf)

View HB 3232:  
<http://www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?s=13&t=&r=&q=3232&c=50&key=HB%2032320&ptadd=:%20HB%203232%20Details>

## Charter school bills heard in second committee

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The Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee heard three charter bills this week, **House Bill 2150**, **House Bill 2875** and **House Bill 3093**. The committee chaired by Sen. Mark Hass (D-Beaverton) had several questions on each of the bills and asked for some amendments to be drafted for discussion at a future meeting.

The first bill was HB 2150, a product of a process OSBA initiated to review Oregon's charter school laws in response to requests from districts, charter school advocates and agencies to assess the law on its 10-year anniversary in 2010. The OSBA Charter Review Committee was a work group with representatives of public schools, charter schools, the Oregon Department of Education, the Legislature, education associations, parents, teachers and others.

OSBA Legislative Specialist Lori Sattenspiel testified in support of HB 2150, and brought forward an amendment that would exempt a charter district (a district consisting of a single school) from being required to have two separate boards when the school and district operate as one. This amendment addressed the difficulty in filling two separate boards from a single small community, which is typical of most charter districts. The committee understood the issue behind the amendment.

The other amendment on HB 2150, drafted by the NW Center for Education Options, would exempt charter schools from having to follow public contracting laws. Under current law all public entities must follow public contracting laws, a policy OSBA supports as it holds agencies accountable for public spending. The committee discussed at length, but closed the hearing without voting on either amendment.

The second bill, HB 2875, was sponsored by Rep. Julie Parrish (R-Tualatin/West Linn). Rep. Parrish testified before the committee in support of the bill, which would allow a charter school's current contract to remain in effect until a new contract has been negotiated. Under current law, the board votes to renew the charter school, then negotiations begin on the new contract. If both parties can't reach agreement the district can decide to "not renew." There has never been a case of this type of contract negotiation not coming to agreement during a renewal process. Typically when negotiations are stalled, the district and charter mutually agree to extend the current contract for another 90 days to allow both parties to continue the negotiation process. The committee did not take action on this bill.

The final charter bill was HB 3093, which would allow a sponsor to terminate a charter school for failure to provide its audit to the sponsor. The bill's sponsor, Rep. Margaret Doherty (D-Tigard), gave opening comments that spurred the committee to ask several questions about the current audit process for districts and charter schools.

The discussion surrounded the ability of a sponsor to terminate a charter when a school district has failed to produce its audit in a timely manner and the school is not closed. Current statute allows the Oregon Department of Education to hold districts accountable for getting these audits in on time by withholding the state school fund allotment until the audit has been turned in.

The department noted that the audits are due in December. To date, two districts and 57 charter schools have not turned in their audits.

The committee continued to discuss accountability and ultimately decided that a small workgroup would meet to formulate an amendment to bring back to the committee.

Contact Lori Sattenspiel at [lsattenspiel@osba.org](mailto:lsattenspiel@osba.org) if you have questions about any of these three bills.

View HB 2150:  
<http://www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?s=13&t=&r=&q=2150&c=50&key=HB%2021500&ptadd=:%20HB%202150%20Details>

View HB 2875:  
<http://www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?s=13&t=&r=&q=2875&c=50&key=HB%2028750&ptadd=:%20HB%202875%20Details>

View HB 3093:  
<http://www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?s=13&t=&r=&q=3093&c=50&key=HB%2030930&ptadd=:%20HB%203093%20Details>

## Social media bill heard in the Senate

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**House Bill 2654** was heard this week in the Senate's General Government, Consumer and Small Business Protection Committee, chaired by Sen. Chip Shields (D-Portland). This bill prohibits employers from compelling access to employees' personal social media accounts.

There have been reported cases in the national media of employers pressuring employees or job applicants to provide access to their social media accounts or to "friend" them as a condition of employment.

HB 2654, sponsored by several legislators, was drafted in an effort to add Oregon as the seventh state to prohibit such actions by employers.

During the Senate hearing, the committee raised concerns that had been voiced in the public hearing held in House committee. Those concerns included the impacts of this bill on employers and the ability for employers to ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulatory requirements or prohibitions against work-related employee misconduct.

The bill does include language that would allow the employer to conduct appropriate oversight of employees to stay in compliance with state and federal labor laws.

If you have questions on this bill, contact Lori Sattenspiel, [lsattenspiel@osba.org](mailto:lsattenspiel@osba.org).

View HB 2654:

<http://www.osba.org/Resources/Article/Legislative/BillTracking.aspx?s=13&t=&r=&q=2654&c=50&key=HB%2026540&ptadd=%20HB%202654%20Details>

## Questions about legislative issues?

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Contact the OSBA Legislative Services Team:

800-578-6722 or 503-588-2800

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## Contact your legislator

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Find your legislators' contact information on the Oregon Legislature's website:

- House - <http://www.leg.state.or.us/house/>
- Senate - <http://www.leg.state.or.us/senate/>

To contact your legislator by phone, call the Capitol Switchboard at 1-800-332-2313.

