

OSBA Legislative Highlights



the Promise
OF OREGON

February 26, 2016

Short Session grinding toward adjournment

After four intense weeks of committee hearings, debates and, frequently, partisan votes on bills, the Oregon Legislature's February Session appears on track to wrap up its work by the March 6th constitutional sine die deadline. The Legislature continues to work on politically complex policy issues such as affordable housing, while other bills to raise the minimum wage and reform Oregon's foster care system have already cleared both the House and Senate and await final approval by the governor.

February 23rd marked the final deadline for bills that passed out of the House to receive a final committee vote in the Senate and vice versa. Work continues on bills in the Rules and Revenue committees of both chambers, while the Ways and Means Committee passed out the final budget reconciliation and capitol construction bills late Feb. 25.

There were a few bright spots in Salem this week, including:

- **Senate Bill 5701** is the budget reconciliation bill, or, as it is commonly known around the Capitol, "the Christmas Tree bill." It passed out of Ways and Means with a \$5.4 million increase to the Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) program budgets. Our school districts and ESDs provide critical special education services to children from birth to age five and have warned of inadequate supports and interventions for families and children due to continued underfunding of the program.
- Interim Chief Education Officer Lindsey Capps and Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction Salam Noor provided a briefing to the House Education Committee on Monday about the recently passed "Every Student Succeeds Act." They emphasized the tremendous opportunity for Oregon educators and education stakeholders to provide input and remake Oregon's system of school accountability and efforts to improve student achievement. They announced the Oregon Department of Education will convene four workgroups of stakeholders to help transition from the old No Child Left Behind law. These include workgroups on: Standards and Assessment, Accountability, Education Effectiveness, and School and District Improvement.

- On Feb. 24, Governor Kate Brown hosted a reception at Mahonia Hall for K-12 educators and education leaders from around the state. OSBA President-Elect **Betty Reynolds**, Vice President **LeeAnn Larsen**, Secretary-Treasurer **Don Cruise**, Past President **Dave Krumbein** and OSBA Board members **Kevin Cassidy**, **Stan Primozich**, **Sherry Duerst-Higgins**, **Maureen Wolf** and **Kris Howatt** met and mingled with superintendents, teachers, educators and community leaders from across Oregon. The informal meeting gave the governor an opportunity to engage with K-12 leaders and share her commitment to early childhood education, career and technical education and ensuring that every student leaves our K-12 system ready to embark on a career or college.

View Senate Bill 5701:

olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2016R1/Measures/Overview/SB5701



The OSBA Board and leadership were well represented at a governor's reception for education leaders Feb. 24. Pictured with Gov. Kate Brown are (L to R): OSBA Board Members Craig Prewitt (Phoenix-Talent), Maureen Wolf (Tigard-Tualatin), LeeAnn Larsen (Beaverton), and Kris Howatt (Gresham-Barlow).



L to R: Gov. Kate Brown, OSBA Board Member Stan Primozich (McMinnville) and OSBA Executive Director Betsy Miller-Jones at Mahonia Hall.

Update on key education-related bills in the 2016 session

In addition to being limited to 35 days, even-year sessions are also bound by the number of bills that can be introduced. Around 300 bills have been introduced; OSBA staff are tracking about 50 that would impact K-12 school districts, education service districts (ESDs) and community colleges.

Here is a quick recap of actions related to key education policy bills OSBA is following:

- **House Bill 4002/House Bill 4031** both attempt to address the issue of chronic student absenteeism. HB 4002 directs the Department of Education (ODE) to develop a statewide plan to address chronic absences, while HB 4031 appropriates \$5 million to the Chief Education Office to create and fund pilot programs around the state to “decrease rates of absenteeism.” On February 25, the Joint Ways and Means Committee approved an amended version of HB 4002 which merges the two bills together and reduces the funding to \$500,000 for the biennium. The bill now heads to the House and Senate for final votes.
- **House Bill 4057** has been approved by both the House and Senate and awaits the governor’s signature. The bill requires the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to survey school districts about programs (including costs, if available) and promising practices intended to improve student achievement for students impacted by poverty. ODE will also include how much State School Fund (SSF) each school district receives from the poverty weight as part of the report.
- **House Bill 4130** (changes to Oregon’s public records law) appears unlikely to move forward this session; the bill is currently languishing in the Ways and Means Committee and is not scheduled for any further action. The bill has been amended to address school district concerns (no changes to cost recovery for complex

records requests and deadlines that exempt summer/spring/holiday breaks).

- **Senate Bill 1564** has passed both the House and Senate and awaits the governor’s signature. The amended bill requires the Oregon Department of Education to create one statewide report on the progress of English Language Learners (ELL) and expenditures related to ELL programs; a requirement that each school district create an individual, district level report was removed from current law. ODE will be required to share the report with the public and school districts upon completion. This is part of OSBA’s continued efforts to pass legislation that can be categorized as “mandate relief” for local districts.
- **Senate Bill 1566** has passed both the House and Senate and awaits the governor’s signature. The amended bill extends Oregon’s “open enrollment” sunset date from July 1, 2017, to July 1, 2019. The practical impact is that there will now be “open enrollment” during the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years. Both the House and Senate Education Committee chairs have indicated a willingness to convene stakeholders between the end of the February session and the beginning of the 2017 session to discuss the complexities and confusion created by having both “open enrollment” and interdistrict transfer options available to districts.
- **Senate Bill 1537** has been sent to the full House and Senate for a vote. As amended, the bill enacts tighter guidelines and sideboards for so called “5th-year” high school programs. The bill is an attempt to target the programs to “at risk” students and limits the amount districts can claim from the SSF to a 0.75 weight. It would also prohibit students eligible for the Oregon Promise from entering 5th-year programs, require ODE to report on how many students are enrolled and the financial impact on the SSF, and asks for recommendations from ODE and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) on a long-term, sustainable source of funding for the program.

These are just a few of the bills OSBA is following this February. Contact OSBA Legislative Specialist Morgan Allen (mallen@osba.org) for more information.

View House Bill 4002:

olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2016R1/Measures/Overview/HB4002

View House Bill 4031:

olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2016R1/Measures/Overview/HB4031

View House Bill 4057:

olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2016R1/Measures/Overview/HB4057

View House Bill 4130:

olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2016R1/Measures/Overview/HB4130

View Senate Bill 1537:

olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2016R1/Measures/Overview/SB1537

View Senate Bill 1564:

olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2016R1/Measures/Overview/SB1564

View Senate Bill 1566:

olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2016R1/Measures/Overview/SB1566

Minimum wage bill heads to governor for signature

Senate Bill 1532A, which increases Oregon’s minimum wage, passed the House on Feb. 18 after five hours of debate; two Democrats joined all Republicans in voting against it.

There were numerous distractions during the House debate over this bill, including loud protests outside the chamber that drowned out the debate, forcing the assembly to pause in its deliberations. Republicans attempted to send SB 1532 back to the Ways and Means Committee, where a bill goes when it creates a fiscal impact on the state budget; however, the motion failed on the House floor.

Nearly all Republicans either spoke or yielded their time for other members to speak against the minimum wage increase. All their remarks began with, “There is a better way, but the consequences of this bill are layoffs, lost hours and rising costs for all our neighbors. This isn’t hypothetical. There will be a real impact on real people.”

In opposing the bill, Rep. John Lively (D-Springfield) stated, “I see the struggle daily in my community, this bill isn’t the answer.” Rep. Lively continued, “It misses the mark – the impact on nonprofits hurts the ability to provide necessary services and will be a detriment to those who rely on the services.”

Governor Kate Brown tweeted after the vote, “I look forward to signing this bill.”

A small group of legislators is still working on concerns raised throughout minimum wage discussions. While these talks continue, details of the new plan are complex. The new provisions add items meant to satisfy moderate Democrats and some Republicans, including lowering top wages for rural Oregonians while reviving plans to raise minimum pay in Portland to \$15 per hour.

The Oregon School Boards Association has completed a frequently asked questions (FAQ) document to help answer questions related to the increased minimum wage and to help OSBA members with implementation.

View the FAQ:

www.osba.org/~media/Files/Resources/Legislative/Minimum%20wage%20FAQ%20Final.pdf

Contact Lori Sattenspiel at lsattenspiel@osba.org for more information.

View Senate Bill 1532A:

olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2016R1/Measures/Overview/SB1532

‘Don’t Catch This Wave’: Students advocate for disaster preparedness

Students from the Seaside School District spoke to the House Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness this week. They brought their message “Don’t Catch This Wave” to Salem in hopes of persuading

legislators to help with their efforts to ensure people are prepared for natural disasters, including the impact that a tsunami would have on the Seaside community and its schools.

Seaside Superintendent Doug Dougherty led off the presentation discussing Cascadia subduction zone earthquakes and tsunamis, saying, “I’ve learned that people come from one of three perspectives. The first is disbelief. These people tell me, ‘I’ve lived here all my life and I’ve never seen anything like what you’re describing. It’s never going to happen.’

“The second is despair. These people believe there is nothing they can do to survive the situation. They don’t see a reason to try.

“The third and most important perspective is dedication. These people seek tangible and practical options to prepare for a Cascadia event and to become more resilient in the aftermath. They believe we must protect our community’s greatest resource, its children.”

Dougherty continued, “The children and families of Seaside School District make up a beloved part of our community but, because of the condition and location of the schools, our students’ physical safety cannot be guaranteed without each community’s partnership and support.”

The student-led discussion included a video presentation and students’ narrated topics about disaster preparation and probable impacts of a natural disaster on their bridges and schools.

Legislators listened with enthusiasm, complimenting the students for the work done on this important issue and offering to assist with any needed legislation in the next legislative session.

View the presentation:

http://prezi.com/yaquydg6jnae/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy&rc=ex0share



L to R: Seaside School District’s Dr. Doug Dougherty, Nathanael Ward, Kyna Lyn, Clair Ogilvie, and Kara Ipson speak to legislators about the need for community members to be prepared for natural disasters, including tsunamis.

This will be the last edition of OSBA's *Legislative Highlights* for the 2016 Session.

Shortly after the Legislature adjourns, OSBA will work closely with our partners at the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators to compile information about key bills impacting K-12, ESDs and community colleges as part of our 2016 *Legislative Report*.

In the meantime, please contact OSBA Legislative Services staff if you have any questions or comments:

- Jim Green: jgreen@osba.org
- Morgan Allen: mallen@osba.org
- Lori Sattenspiel: lsattenspiel@osba.org
- Tyler Shipman: tshipman@osba.org



For more information and to register for the 2016 *PACE Day: Safe & Secure Schools*, go to: pace.osba.org/Calendar/Events/2016-04-21-PACEDay.aspx

Contact your legislator

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

- House – www.oregonlegislature.gov/house
- Senate – www.oregonlegislature.gov/senate

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