

OSBA Legislative Highlights



the Promise
OF OREGON



March 10, 2017

School districts fight addition of hurdles to contracting rules

[Senate Bill 294](#) would make significant changes to the public contracting code, and proponents are seeking an amendment that would carve out cities and counties, leaving school districts as the target of the law change.

The Senate Workforce Committee took testimony this week on the bill, which would add profit to the cost analysis calculation and allow a bargaining unit to seek judicial review.

"This bill, as written, will add additional steps to the already complex process for districts," said Angie Peterman, executive director of the Oregon Association of School Business Officials. "At a time when budgets will be cut again, districts will look at support services, like contracting for services, as one area for cost savings and using those dollars in the classroom."

Brad Earl, chief operations officer for the Medford School District, also testified.

"Medford has outsourced our busing for many years, allowing us to focus on the essential mission of the district – quality teachers in classrooms," Earl said.

SB 294 would add layers to the current procurement process set out in 2009. All government entities must follow the complex procurement process defined in Oregon Revised Statute 279B if they decide to outsource services with a private company.

"Previous years of underfunding in education have left school districts continuing to look for areas they can modify, to get resources to the classroom," testified OSBA Interim Director of Legislative Services Lori Sattenspiel. "The management of transportation, custodial and food services are support services and not essential classroom functions, leading school districts to look at changing how they deliver these services."



Sen. Kathleen Taylor

Sen. Kathleen Taylor (D-Portland), committee chair, said the committee would not be moving the bill at this time.

- *Lori Sattenspiel*
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Committee considers charter students' access to activities

Testimony Tuesday before the Senate Education Committee raised the controversial issue of giving charter school students access to extracurricular activities at resident district schools.

A large portion of the testimony focused on proposed amendments that were still being drafted for [Senate Bills 536](#) and [208](#), which share identical text. Those amendments would keep the core premise of the bills – charter student access to extracurricular activities – but would allow district schools to charge a charter school up to 5 percent of ADMr per student participating in an extracurricular activity annually, a provision mirroring fee-for-services provisions that are common to many other areas of school business operations.

Most testimony favored the bill.

"Our goal in this legislation is not to provide any extra opportunities for our students," said Daniel Huld, director of Baker Charter Schools, "but to give them equal access to extracurricular activities."

OSBA joined several other education stakeholder groups, including the Oregon School Activities Association, and testified in support of the bill.



Daniel Huld

Some administrators had concerns, though.

"The problem with the bills under consideration is that they ... go beyond the current legal requirements that the district take care of the charter's special education programs but now include its extracurricular program as well," submitted Chuck Bennett of the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators.

Nicole Albisu, Ontario School District superintendent, also submitted testimony detailing Ontario's concerns and the district's troubled history with its local state-sponsored charter school.

OSBA, in support of the bill, cited the benefit to students when they have access to extracurricular activities.

"We believe this is a good bill, even though some districts would not otherwise support this bill," said Richard Donovan, OSBA legislative specialist. "Specific districts have concerns with this bill. We're aware of that and



Sen. Arnie Roblan

believe that while that is important to acknowledge, those (concerns) tend to be what we colloquially call ‘adult problems.’ We’re interested in ‘kid problems,’ and kids do better when they have access to sports, activities and extracurriculars.”

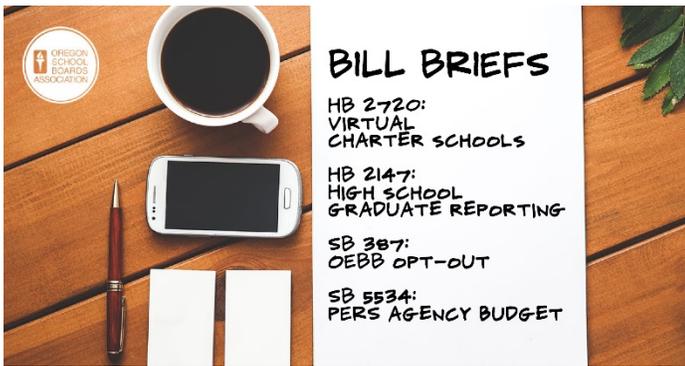
The chair of the committee, Sen. Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay), said that because the two bills were identical,

only one bill would be selected if the committee decided to vote on a bill. He did not have a preference.

OSBA will continue to monitor these bills.

- Richard Donovan
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Bill Briefs



Virtual charter schools

[House Bill 2720](#)

What it does: The bill would create a study on Oregon’s virtual online public charter schools, including the state and federal resources available to virtual public charter schools and the financial and working relationships between each virtual public charter school and the sponsor of the school.

What’s new: The House Education Committee heard the bill March 6.

What’s next: OSBA testified in support of the bill and will monitor the bill’s progress.

High school graduate reporting

[House Bill 2147](#)

What it does: The bill would require each post-secondary institution in Oregon to provide the Department of Education and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission with the number of Oregon high school graduates from each school district enrolled at each institution and their graduation rate at the institution by school district.

What’s new: The House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee heard the bill March 9.

What’s next: OSBA testified in support of the bill and will monitor the bill’s progress.

Oregon Educators Benefit Board opt-out

[Senate Bill 387](#)

What it does: The bill would allow school districts with independent health insurance trusts to opt out of the Oregon Educators Benefit Board. Several districts have a bargaining unit in OEGB and a unit outside OEGB that are insured by the district’s independent insurance trust. This bill would allow those bargaining units currently in OEGB to come out and obtain insurance from the district’s independent health insurance trust.

What’s new: The Senate Education Committee heard the bill March 9.

What’s next: OSBA supports the bill and will monitor the bill’s progress.

PERS agency budget

[Senate Bill 5534](#)

[Agency overview](#)

What it does: This bill would fund the Public Employees Retirement System agency. PERS administers the retirement system covering judges and employees of state agencies; public universities and school districts; and participating cities, counties and special districts in Oregon. The agency also administers a retiree health insurance program and a voluntary employee deferred compensation program for state agencies and some local governmental units. The five-member Public Employees Retirement Board has broad authority for operation of the system. Day-to-day operations are carried out by the board-appointed executive director and agency staff.

What’s new: The agency budget has been discussed all week in the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on General Government.

What’s next: The bill is expected to be approved and will move to the Full Ways and Means Committee next week.



Oregon was aiming for April 3 to send its Every Student Succeeds Act plan to the feds, but the U.S. Department of Education is planning to release a new template for plans the week of March 13, according to a letter to educators from Betsy DeVos, the new U.S. secretary of education. Read more: [Timeline for Oregon's ESSA plan thrown into question.](#)

The Week Ahead



March 13, 8:30 a.m. Joint Ways and Means Education Subcommittee holds public hearing on the Department of Education ([SB 5516](#)) and the State School Fund ([SB 5517](#)).

March 13, 3 p.m. Senate Workforce Committee holds informational hearing on public proposals for PERS.

March 13, 3 p.m. House Education Committee holds public hearing on analyzing student progress ([HB 2898](#)), removing requirement that Legislature report on paying for quality education goals ([HJR 4](#)) and getting more students served by school social workers ([HB 2658](#)).

March 14, 8:30 a.m. Joint Ways and Means Education Subcommittee holds public hearing on the Department of Education ([SB 5516](#)) and the State School Fund ([SB 5517](#)).

March 14, 3 p.m. Senate Education Committee holds public hearing on creating list of high-demand jobs in Oregon and distributing it to schools ([SB 440](#)), creating content for Oregon Studies ([SB 280](#)) and auditing and revising summative assessments ([SB 351](#) and [SB 354](#)) and work sessions on establishing Early Indicator and Intervention System ([SB 183](#)) and establishing a task force on school district spending ([SB 421](#)).

March 15, 8:30 a.m. Joint Ways and Means Education Subcommittee holds public hearing on the Department of Education ([SB 5516](#)) and the State School Fund ([SB 5517](#)).

March 15, 3 p.m. House Education Committee holds an informational meeting on Measure 98 and public hearing on developing ethnic studies standards ([HB 2845](#)) and establishing education requirements for teachers ([HB 2867](#)).

March 15, 3 p.m. Senate Workforce Committee holds public hearing on changes to PERS ([SB 560](#) and [SB 913](#)).

March 16 Deadline to file for a school board position.

March 16, 8:30 a.m. Joint Ways and Means Education Subcommittee takes public testimony on K-12 issues ([SB 5516](#)) and the State School Fund ([SB 5517](#)).

March 16, 3 p.m. Senate Education Committee holds public hearing on establishing superintendent of public instruction as statewide elected office ([SB 746](#)), establishing makeup of State Board of Education ([SB 649](#)), and amending state constitution to create State Board of Education ([SJR 37](#)).

Noon press conference in the Capitol

OSBA releases the results of its poll on what public services Oregonians want and how they expect the state to pay for them.



Speak up for public education

The [OSBA and COSA Legislative Day](#) gives you the opportunity to advocate for reinvestment in public education to support student achievement.

When: March 13, 2017, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Where: [Willamette Heritage Center](#)
(Mission Mill Museum), Spinning Room

[Register now!](#)

Hear from Rep. Margaret Doherty, chair of the House Education Committee. Receive advocacy training on how to talk to your legislators. Learn about pertinent legislative issues, including funding, revenue reform, Measure 98, collective bargaining, and more! Then, head to the Capitol to meet with your legislators* and be a part of the OSBA Revenue Poll Press Conference in the Capitol press room.

Schedule an appointment with your legislator

*Attendees must schedule their own appointments with legislators to best accommodate their personal schedules. Please contact legislative offices to set these appointments.

- [Find your legislators' contact information](#)
- [Agenda and hotel/transportation information](#)

Items may be added to committee agendas during the week. The Oregon Legislature keeps an updated page of committee agendas at:

olis.leg.state.or.us/LIZ/Committees/Meeting/List

- Jake Arnold

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