

Legislative Policy Committee Report - June 2023

I attended the Friday Zoom Legislative Policy Committee meetings hosted by OSBA Legislative Services staff each week. These were informative and provided insights into the ongoing walkout.

I was invited to share [testimony](#) on [HB 3217, an environmental justice bill](#) sponsored by Rep. Tran, during an informational hearing on May 23, 2023. While I wasn't able to testify in person, I submitted written testimony about plans for a freight warehouse close to our high school, and the gaps in Oregon environmental protection as revealed through board and student advocacy.

Legislative Updates:

The Senate Republicans continue their five-week walkout to deny a quorum. Hundreds of bills are stuck, waiting on work on the Senate floor. This includes dozens of agency budget bills. As of today, OSBA anticipates the walkout will go through June 25, the constitutional end of session, and that a special session for budgets will be necessary.

SSF Budget Bill, HB 5015:

In very good news, however, [legislative leadership announced](#) a **\$10.2 billion** investment in the State School Fund. The bill containing that investment, House Bill 5015, has passed out of the funding subcommittee for education, off the House floor, and currently awaits a reading on the Senate floor.

ODE Budget Bill, HB 5014:

The ODE agency budget bill passed out of the education subcommittee earlier this week. This bill is important because it's the "other" big funding bill for K-12 programs, containing \$5.5B in funds, almost all of it passed through the agency to other things. This includes Student Success Act funds (~\$940M), BM98/High School Success funds (~\$310M), the OSCIM bond matching program (\$225M), and all federal funds (~\$2B) that Oregon receives. Overall, the bill is in good shape, although it underfunds Early Childhood/Early Intervention Special Education services by as much as \$40M. OSBA has been advocating with legislators and expects that the final budget bill (the end of session budget bill) will add an additional \$18-\$20M to that number.

SB 1031 (elections), HB 3552 (school board member protections): OSBA was not able to get any traction with leadership for either of these bills. SB 1031, which would have moved to annual school board elections, was ambitious and never received space for discussion. HB 3552 was part of a broader discussion about home address protections for candidates generally. While it did not move forward, a broader bill of protections for candidates, [HB 3073A](#), did make progress. OSBA submitted a letter in support of that bill, and it is on its way to the House floor.

SB 292, SEI filings: This bill is in House Rules and while OSBA pressed hard for a vote to move it to the floor, it will not move forward.

Early Literacy Funding, HB 3198: Gov. Kotek's priority bill to create an early literacy grant program, was in line to receive a \$70M allocation. This is less than the \$120M allocation included in Kotek's budget, and dramatically less than the \$300M allocation discussed last fall. The bill is likely still on track to receive funding, but the amount of funding is unclear.