



# SENATOR MARK HASS

District 14 – Beaverton

Chair, Senate Education & Workforce Development  
Committee

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Senate committee unanimously approves local university governance**

*SB 270A establishes institutional governing boards at UO, PSU and possibly OSU*

SALEM— The Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee today approved legislation that will create institutional boards at the University of Oregon, Portland State University, and at Oregon State University if the university's president opts to have one. The committee voted unanimously to advance SB 270A to the state's budget writing committee.

SB 270A will set in motion a new Special Committee on Technical and Regional Universities, where these universities may take the next step in what has become a multi-year restructuring of Oregon's higher education system.

"This builds on the restructuring that we began in 2010 – and it continues to make our universities more competitive and autonomous while also keeping our state system unified and intact," said committee chair Senator Mark Hass (D-Beaverton).

The legislation is the result of the work of an interim committee last year that unanimously recommended local boards for those institutions who sought them. Over the last three months, the Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee has been working to draft language within those recommendations, which are now reflected in the provisions of SB 270A.

SB 270A will allow these new university boards to take effect by 2014.

"Like the restructuring bill in 2011, this is bipartisan, practical and supported by the Oregon University System, as well as the institutions themselves," said Hass.

SB 270A now moves to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, where it will receive further work related to the state budget.

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