



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Oregon Senate votes to establish school safety tip line

HB 4075 provides law enforcement and behavioral health service providers with a tool to help keep students safe

SALEM – The Oregon Senate today passed a bill designed to improve student safety by providing law enforcement and behavioral health service providers with a tool to identify and respond to student safety concerns.

House Bill 4075 – which passed the Senate on a 29-0 bipartisan vote – appropriates \$1 million from the state’s General Fund to establish a statewide tip line operated by the Oregon State Police to receive information on threats to student safety.

“Particularly in light of recent violent acts in this state within the past year, we need to be providing as many tools as we can to help learning institutions keep this state’s students safe,” said Sen. Chip Shields, who carried the bill. “This gives law enforcement and school administrators an opportunity to receive confidential tips from students and the community about potential threats of different kinds.”

In 2014, the Legislature created the Oregon Task Force on School Safety and directed this multidisciplinary group to bring forth recommendations for standard protocols related to school safety. House Bill 4075 represents one of the recommendations presented by the Task Force during the 2016 session.

The bill requires the tip line to receive reports on threats to student safety across the state – which can include harassment, intimidation, bullying, cyberbullying and threats of violence or

self-harm – through telephone, text messaging or electronic formats, or through another connected hotline. Reports can come from any student or community member and tips received must be kept confidential. The bill directs OSP to work with behavioral health service providers to develop and adopt rules on identifying callers, logging reports received on the tip line, verifying authenticity of reports and relaying reports to local law enforcement, behavioral health providers and appropriate school district officials.

HB 4075 now goes to Gov. Kate Brown for signature.

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