



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Senate votes to increase focus on critical job training programs

SB 1566A promotes job training coordination through the Oregon Workforce Investment Board

SALEM – This morning the Oregon Senate approved legislation to modernize the state’s job training programs. Senate Bill 1566A, which promotes coordination between state agencies that oversee workforce programs, passed the chamber with a vote of 30-0.

“We’re taking an important step to make more job training programs available to Oregonians in both rural and urban parts of the state,” said Senate Majority Leader Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland). “This bill helps more people get the skills and training they need to secure family-wage jobs.”

Senate Bill 1566A promotes increased coordination of state services involving education, employment, and economic development in order to improve job training programs. To accomplish this, the bill assigns new duties to the Oregon Workforce Investment Board and directs them to work with local workforce investment boards to increase efficiencies and eliminate duplicative work.

“A coordinated job training system gives workers everywhere in the state the training they need to move up the ladder to prosperity,” said Senator Michael Dembrow (D-Portland). “Oregon has many good programs, but they need to be better coordinated. This bill moves us in the right direction and will help get our workers into good, family-wage jobs.”

The policy changes in SB 1566A come from a two-year workgroup that carefully reviewed ways to improve the effectiveness and availability of job training programs in Oregon.

“In my district, access to job skills training programs in community colleges and vocational schools can provide direct pathways into the middle class for many Oregonians,” said Senator Alan Bates (D-Medford). “Today we took action to help Oregonians prepare for the careers of the 21st Century and get to work.”

The bill now goes to the Oregon House of Representatives for further action.

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