

# Board Member Stipends Frequently Asked Questions

## What was the change in statute intended to do?

Previously, ORS 332.018 prohibited board members from receiving any compensation from the district. During the 2023 Legislative session, House Bill 2753 was passed. This law removed the prohibition on compensation and allows school district boards to provide each “voting member of the board with a stipend in an amount determined by the board, not to exceed \$500 per month.”

## What is the procedure for a board to take up this topic?

While the bill grants the board the authority to make this decision, the Oregon Government Ethics Commission (OGEC) has determined that the board voting on stipends could create a conflict of interest under ORS 244.020. See [Oregon Government Ethics Commission Advice No. 23-342I](#). OGEC has outlined potential ways for the board to vote on this, but they come with challenges. OSBA is working on a legislative fix to simplify the process for school boards.

## Do we have to wait for the 2024 Legislative Session to do this?

While OSBA recommends waiting for a potential legislative solution, districts can move forward with one of the options provided by OGEC. If proceeding forward, work with legal counsel as there are challenges to the proposed options.

## What if we have already voted to approve stipends?

OGEC has indicated that boards that have already approved stipends should re-approve the stipends using one of the proposed methods in [Oregon Government Ethics Commission Advice No. 23-342I](#). If you need assistance in this process, contact OSBA or your legal counsel.

## What does this mean ESDs, community colleges and charter schools?

HB 2753 only changes the law and authorizes stipends for school district board members.

**Questions:** contact Spencer Lewis at [slewis@osba.org](mailto:slewis@osba.org).

Revised: September 29, 2023

