Seventy-Seventh Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2013 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed Versions are Considered Official

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Measure Description:

Allows virtual public charter school to receive funding for providing supplemental online courses.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Education, School Districts

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

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	2013-15 Biennium	2015-17 Biennium
General Fund	\$331,626	\$310,498
Lottery Funds		
Other Funds		
Federal Funds		
Total Funds	\$331,626	\$310,498
Positions	2	2
FTE	1.50	1.50

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis: This bill would allow virtual public charter schools to receive funding for providing supplemental online courses and allow the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to expend \$1.5 million in the first year and \$3.75 million in the second year, from the State School Fund (SSF) to pay for online courses.

ODE would need to develop OAR's to implement the provisions of this bill and develop criteria for approving supplemental online courses. After the development and implementation of the OAR's and approval process for supplemental online courses, ODE would have an ongoing need for monitoring and approval or disapproval of supplemental online courses. ODE does not have existing resources to accomplish these requirements without additional General Fund resources and position authority. It should be noted that any carve outs from SSF would decrease the amount of money that would be available for distribution to school districts and education service districts (ESDs). It is assumed that the SSF resources may only be used to pay for the on-line courses and not ODE expenses.

Although definitive data is not available, it is reasonable to believe that there would be costs to school districts in reviewing and approving courses and tracking students' progress in online classes. A large school district indicated that they would expend roughly \$4,000 per year in these activities. The actual amount that the 197 school districts would actually spend is indeterminate.