

Senate Committee On Education:

SB 223 as written claims to provide a means for private schools to voluntarily register with the OR Department of Education, provided that they meet certain qualifications or standards. However, upon further analyzing the details in the text of the measure, I conclude that in order to maintain access to a number of beneficial non-government sponsored programs these private schools would have to be registered with the State Department of Education, or lose access to such beneficial programs. This, in fact therefore, makes such registration mandatory if the private school desires to continue relationship with programs like The Honor Society and other interscholastic activities.

SB 223 as written will open the door for the the OR Department of Education to more highly regulate private schools' facilities, curricula, personnel, and activities. Parents who value having their children enrolled in a private school already are burdened with the extra cost of tuition for excellent instruction. Most Private schools already offer quality educational programs equal to or exceeding government school's expectations. If enacted, SB 223 will further negatively impact private school's budgets making their tuition schedules even more expensive.

Please do not enact this regressive and unnecessary bill.

Thank you,  
Walter Wierenga