

SB 1066 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/30, 4/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes Task Force on For-Profit providers of Educational Services in Virtual Public Charter Schools. Establishes membership requirements of Task Force. Requires Task Force to examine services provided to for-profit virtual public charter school students with special needs, identify quality standards applicable to for-profit virtual public charter schools, identify ways to strengthen accountability for for-profit virtual public charter schools, determine true costs of providing online educational services by for-profit virtual public charter schools on a per-student basis, determine regulatory authority over for-profit virtual public charter schools, review Secretary of State's 2017 audit on online education and 2022 Systemic Risk Report, consider applicability of Attorney General's 2019 opinion 8296, determine whether appropriate safeguards are in place, and examine research on the use of algorithm-based programming. Establishes meeting requirements for Task Force. Requires Task Force to submit report to Legislative Assembly by August 31, 2024. Repeals Task Force December 31, 2024. Prohibits school districts and education service districts from contracting for the provision of online educational services through a sole-source procurement. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Modifies requirement for Attorney General appointee to Task Force.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 338.005 defines public charter schools as an elementary or secondary school offering comprehensive instructional program operating under written agreement between sponsor and applicant operating pursuant to Chapter 338. Virtual public charter schools are defined as a public charter school that provides online courses, and does not include public charter schools that primarily serve students in a physical location.

In its most recent annual statewide report card, the Oregon Department of Education reports that a total of 19 charter schools, or 14 percent of all charters, identify as fully or primarily virtual. Theses schools enroll approximately 40 percent of all charter school students in Oregon.

Senate Bill 1066 establishes a Task Force on For-Profit Providers of Educational Services in Virtual Public Charter Schools.