

HB 3204 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 5/2, 5/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies timelines for students who wish to enroll in virtual charter schools that are sponsored by districts other than their resident district. Requires school districts to provide notice of decision to deny approval within 10 calendar days of receiving notice of intent to enroll. Requires school districts to calculate at least twice each year the school district's percentage of students attending virtual public charter schools that are not sponsored by the district. Allows students who previously enrolled in virtual public charter school to remain enrolled after moving to another resident district. Requires school district to provide information to parent or legal guardian about the percentage of students enrolled if school district denies approval. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

HOUSE VOTE: Passed. Ayes, 47; Nays, 8; Excused, 5.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Needs of students and families
- Importance of timely information

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Public charter schools, as defined in ORS 338.005, are elementary or secondary schools that offer comprehensive instructional programs that operate under written agreement between the sponsoring school district and the applicant pursuant to the state's charter school laws, as codified in chapter 338 of the Oregon Revised Statutes. Virtual public charter schools are public charter schools that provide online courses and do not 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. These schools enroll approximately 40 percent of all charter school students in Oregon.

Current law sets a cap of three percent on the number of students from any school district who can enroll in a virtual public charter school that is sponsored by a different district and charges students' resident districts with approving enrollment above that cap. House Bill 3204 A modifies the timelines for parental notification of districts' decisions and state appeals of those decisions.