

Senate Bill 707

Sponsored by Senator LINTHICUM (Pre-session filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Increases percentage of students in school district who may enroll in virtual public charter school not sponsored by school district without first receiving approval from school district.
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to enrollment in virtual public charter schools; creating new provisions; amending ORS
3 338.125; and declaring an emergency.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 338.125 is amended to read:

6 338.125. (1) Student enrollment in a public charter school is voluntary.

7 (2)(a) All students who reside in the school district in which the public charter school is located
8 are eligible for enrollment in the public charter school if space is available.

9 (b) Students who do not reside in the school district in which the public charter school is lo-
10 cated are eligible for enrollment in the public charter school if space is available and subject to
11 subsection (4) of this section.

12 (c) A public charter school may not limit student enrollment based on race, religion, sex, sexual
13 orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, national origin, disability, the terms of an individualized ed-
14 ucation program, income level, proficiency in the English language or athletic ability. A public
15 charter school may implement a weighted lottery that favors historically underserved students as
16 provided by subsection (3)(a) of this section.

17 (3)(a) Except as provided by paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection, if the number of applica-
18 tions from students exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level or building, the public
19 charter school shall select students through an equitable lottery selection process. For the purpose
20 of ameliorating the impact of discrimination against historically underserved students, an equitable
21 lottery selection process may include weights that favor historically underserved students. As used
22 in this paragraph, "historically underserved students" are students who are at risk because of any
23 combination of their race, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, disability, income level,
24 proficiency in the English language, socioeconomic status or geographic location.

25 (b)(A) A public charter school may give priority for admission to students who reside within the
26 attendance boundaries that were in effect at the time a school district closed a nonchartered public
27 school if:

28 (i) The public charter school began to operate not more than two years after the nonchartered
29 public school was closed;

30 (ii) The school district that closed the nonchartered public school is the sponsor of the public
31 charter school;

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (iii) The public charter school is physically located within the attendance boundaries of the
2 closed nonchartered public school; and

3 (iv) The school district board, through board action, approved the public charter school giving
4 priority as described in this paragraph.

5 (B) Nothing in this paragraph requires an amendment to a charter. A school district board may
6 take an action described in subparagraph (A)(iv) of this paragraph at any time during the term of
7 a charter.

8 (c) After a public charter school has been in operation for one or more years, the public charter
9 school may give priority for admission to students who:

10 (A) Were enrolled in the prior year in the public charter school;

11 (B) Were enrolled in a public preschool or prekindergarten program operated by the public
12 charter school;

13 (C) Have siblings who are presently enrolled in the school and who were enrolled in the school
14 in the prior year;

15 (D) Are at risk because the student has an economic or academic disadvantage that requires
16 special services or assistance, including students who:

17 (i) Are from economically disadvantaged families;

18 (ii) Are identified as having special educational needs;

19 (iii) Are limited in proficiency in the English language;

20 (iv) Are at risk of dropping out of high school; or

21 (v) Do not meet minimum standards of academic proficiency; or

22 (E) If the public charter school is a party to a cooperative agreement described in ORS 338.080,
23 reside in the school district that is the sponsor of the public charter school or in a school district
24 that is a party to the cooperative agreement.

25 (4)(a) A student who wishes to enroll in a virtual public charter school does not need the ap-
26 proval of the school district where the student is a resident before the student enrolls in the virtual
27 public charter school. If a student wishes to enroll in a virtual public charter school, the parent,
28 legal guardian or person in parental relationship with the student must provide the following notices
29 to the school district where the student is a resident:

30 (A) Intent to enroll the student in a virtual public charter school; and

31 (B) Enrollment of the student in a virtual public charter school.

32 (b)(A) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection and ORS 339.133, if more than *[three]*
33 **five** percent of the students who reside in a school district are enrolled in virtual public charter
34 schools that are not sponsored by the school district, a student who is a resident of the school dis-
35 trict must receive approval from the school district before enrolling in a virtual public charter
36 school **that is not sponsored by the school district**. A school district is not required to give ap-
37 proval if more than *[three]* **five** percent of the students who reside in the school district are enrolled
38 in virtual public charter schools that are not sponsored by the school district.

39 (B) For the purpose of determining whether more than *[three]* **five** percent of the students who
40 reside in the school district are enrolled in virtual public charter schools that are not sponsored by
41 the school district, the school district board shall include any students who:

42 (i) Reside in the school district, regardless of whether the students are considered residents of
43 different school districts as provided by ORS 339.133 (5); and

44 (ii) Are enrolled in virtual public charter schools that are not sponsored by the school district.

45 (C) Students who reside in the school district, regardless of whether the students are considered

1 residents of different school districts as provided by ORS 339.133 (5), must receive approval from the
2 school district before enrolling in a virtual public charter school **that is not sponsored by the**
3 **school district** if the limit described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph has been met.

4 (c) If the school district does not give approval under paragraph (b) of this subsection, the
5 school district must provide information to the parent, legal guardian or person in parental re-
6 lationship with the student about the right to appeal the decision to the State Board of Education
7 and other online options available to the student. If an appeal is made to the State Board of Edu-
8 cation, the board must issue a decision within 30 days of the submission of the appeal.

9 (5) Within 10 days of a student's enrollment in a public charter school, the public charter school
10 shall provide written notice of the student's enrollment to the school district in which the public
11 charter school is located if the student does not reside in the school district where the public
12 charter school is located.

13 (6) Within 10 days of receiving the notice described in subsection (5) of this section, the school
14 district in which the public charter school is located shall provide to the student's parent, legal
15 guardian or person in parental relationship written information about:

16 (a) The school district's responsibility to identify, locate and evaluate students enrolled in the
17 public charter school to determine which students may be in need of special education and related
18 services as provided by ORS 338.165; and

19 (b) The methods by which the school district may be contacted to answer questions or provide
20 information related to special education and related services.

21 (7) When a student described in subsection (5) of this section withdraws from a public charter
22 school for a reason other than graduation from high school, the school district in which the public
23 charter school is located shall:

24 (a) Provide to the school district in which the student resides written notice that the student
25 has withdrawn.

26 (b) Provide to the student's parent, legal guardian or person in parental relationship written
27 information about:

28 (A) The responsibility of the school district in which the student resides to identify, locate and
29 evaluate students who reside in the school district to determine which students may be in need of
30 special education and related services as provided by ORS 338.165; and

31 (B) The methods by which the school district in which the student resides may be contacted to
32 answer questions or provide information related to special education and related services.

33 (8)(a) If a student described in subsection (5) of this section enrolls in a public charter school
34 and has an individualized education program, the school district in which the public charter school
35 is located must implement the individualized education program and follow the terms of the indi-
36 vidualized education program until a new individualized education program is developed.

37 (b) If a student described in subsection (5) of this section withdraws from a public charter school
38 and has an individualized education program, the school district in which the student resides must
39 implement the individualized education program and follow the terms of the individualized education
40 program until a new individualized education program is developed.

41 (9) When a virtual public charter school enrolls a student or a student no longer is enrolled in
42 a virtual public charter school, the virtual public charter school shall provide the written notices
43 described in ORS 338.120 (1)(m) and (n) to the school district where the student is a resident.

44 (10) A public charter school may conduct fund-raising activities but may not require a student
45 to participate in fund-raising activities as a condition of admission to the public charter school.

1 **SECTION 2.** (1) The amendments to ORS 338.125 by section 1 of this 2023 Act become
2 operative on July 1, 2023.

3 (2) The amendments to ORS 338.125 by section 1 of this 2023 Act first apply to the
4 2023-2024 school year.

5 (3) Notwithstanding the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section, a stu-
6 dent may enroll in a virtual public charter school that is not sponsored by the student's
7 resident school district before the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section
8 without receiving approval from that school district if:

9 (a) Five percent or less of the students who reside in the school district are enrolled in
10 virtual public charter schools that are not sponsored by the school district; and

11 (b) The student intends to enroll in a virtual public charter school that is not sponsored
12 by the school district for the 2023-2024 school year or any other subsequent school year.

13 **SECTION 3.** This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
14 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect
15 on its passage.
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