

HB 3953 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 6/10, 6/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure allows federally recognized Tribes to apply directly to the State Board of Education for sponsorship of a charter school. The measure requires that a federally recognized Indian Tribe may submit a proposal to the State Board of Education for a charter school only if it does not already operate a public charter school sponsored by the State Board, only if the proposed public charter school will be located on the Tribe's reservation or within a school district that enrolls students who are members if it does not have a reservation, and only if the Tribe provides notice to the local school board.

Minimal fiscal impact.

No revenue impact.

House vote: Passed. Ayes, 50.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of tensions between Tribal communities and education system
- Graduation rates
- Tribal sovereignty
- Boarding schools and forced assimilation of Tribal children
- Structure of charter school system in Oregon
- Legislative history

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 1999, the Legislative Assembly enacted Senate Bill 100, creating laws regulating public charter schools. The law created a process for those wishing to open public charter schools to apply for sponsorship from a local school district and for local school boards to evaluate and approve applications. Current law requires specific elements be included in a proposal for sponsorship, establishes requirements for the evaluation process and criteria, and allows the State Board of Education to both review local board decisions and to sponsor public charter schools whose proposal has been rejected by a school board.

Public charter schools receive public funding. Students enrolled in the public charter school are considered residents of the school district in which the public charter school is located.