

**HB 3953 A    STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****Carrier:** Rep. Sanchez**House Committee On Rules****Action Date:** 05/21/25**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)**Vote:** 7-0-0-0**Yeas:** 7 - Boshart Davis, Bowman, Drazan, Elmer, Kropf, Pham H, Valderrama**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Lisa Gezelter**Meeting Dates:** 4/21, 5/21**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.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- History of relationships between Tribal nations and the education system, including school districts
- Ability of Tribal members to wear regalia to graduation ceremonies
- History of mascot issue
- Other legislation impacting Tribal nations
- Study of Tribal students in Oregon and related statistics from 2015 related to student outcomes and attendance
- Tribal Attendance Pilot Project/Promising Practices
- Need for Tribal charter schools because of challenging relationships with local school districts
- Consultation with statewide organizations
- Funding for state-sponsored charter schools
- Request for amendment to clarify location of Tribal charter schools and provide notice to school districts

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

The amendment removes a requirement that charter schools be established as a nonprofit organization if the applicant is a federally recognized Indian Tribe. The amendment also adds a requirement 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.

**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.

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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.