

HB 3953 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**Carrier:** Sen. Manning Jr**Senate Committee On Rules****Action Date:** 06/11/25**Action:** Do pass the A-Eng bill.**Vote:** 5-0-0-0**Yeas:** 5 - Bonham, Golden, Jama, Manning Jr, Thatcher**Fiscal:** Has minimal fiscal impact**Revenue:** No revenue impact**Prepared By:** Lisa Gezelter**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 rather than having to apply to a school district board first. The measure requires that a federally recognized Indian Tribe may submit a proposal to the State Board of Education for a charter school 1) only if it does not already operate a public charter school sponsored by the State Board; 2) 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 3) only if the Tribe provides notice to the local school board. Requires the State Board to adopt rules governing the application and approval processes.

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 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. Current law allows Tribal governments, like other entities, to apply to their local school district in order to open a charter school and allows an appeal to the State Board if the application is rejected by the local board.