

Senate Bill 931

Sponsored by Senator MORSE

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**.

Establishes Virtual School Advisory Council.

Directs Department of Education to ensure that online courses meet standards adopted by State Board of Education. Requires department to certify certain programs of online courses.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to online instruction.

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

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Virtual School Advisory Council is established within the Department**
5 **of Education.**

6 **(2) The Virtual School Advisory Council consists of the following 10 members appointed**
7 **by the Superintendent of Public Instruction:**

8 **(a) One member who is a parent of a student enrolled for two or more years in a school**
9 **that provides online courses.**

10 **(b) One member who is involved in the administration of providing online courses.**

11 **(c) One member who is a member of a district school board that sponsors or operates a**
12 **school that provides online courses.**

13 **(d) One member who is a member of a district school board that does not sponsor or**
14 **operate a school that provides online courses.**

15 **(e) One member who is a superintendent of a school district that sponsors or operates**
16 **a school that provides online courses.**

17 **(f) One member who is a superintendent of a school district that does not sponsor or**
18 **operate a school that provides online courses.**

19 **(g) One member who teaches online courses that are offered in conjunction with a pro-**
20 **gram at a school that has a physical location that the student attends.**

21 **(h) One member who teaches online courses that are not offered in conjunction with a**
22 **program at a school that has a physical location that the student attends.**

23 **(i) One member who is a representative of the Department of Education.**

24 **(j) One member who is involved in the Oregon Virtual School District created by ORS**
25 **329.840.**

26 **(3) The Virtual School Advisory Council shall make an annual report to the State Board**
27 **of Education that includes:**

28 **(a) A summary of the operations and activities of programs that provide online courses**
29 **in conjunction with a program at a school that has a physical location that the student at-**
30 **tends.**

31 **(b) A summary of the operations and activities of programs that provide online courses**

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 that are not offered in conjunction with a program at a school that has a physical location
 2 that the student attends.

3 (c) An evaluation of the appropriateness of existing statutes and rules, and any recom-
 4 mended changes.

5 (d) An evaluation of the effectiveness of the Oregon Virtual School District created by
 6 ORS 329.840, and any recommended changes.

7 (4) The State Board of Education shall make public the report provided to the board un-
 8 der subsection (3) of this section.

9 (5) A majority of the members of the advisory council constitutes a quorum for the
 10 transaction of business.

11 (6) Official action by the advisory council requires the approval of a majority of the
 12 members of the advisory council.

13 (7) The advisory council shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson.

14 (8) If there is a vacancy for any cause, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall
 15 make an appointment to become immediately effective.

16 (9) The advisory council shall meet at times and places specified by the superintendent,
 17 and the advisory council must meet at least once every three months.

18 **SECTION 2.** (1) The Department of Education shall:

19 (a) Ensure that online courses provided to kindergarten through grade 12 public school
 20 students in conjunction with a program at a school that has a physical location that a stu-
 21 dent attends meet standards adopted by the State Board of Education; and

22 (b) Certify programs of online courses that are provided for kindergarten through grade
 23 12 public school students and that are not offered in conjunction with a program at a school
 24 that has a physical location that a student attends.

25 (2)(a) The board shall adopt standards to ensure that online courses are of high quality
 26 and are comprehensive.

27 (b) A provider of an online course must provide a description of each online course of-
 28 fered by the provider to the department that shows how the course meets the standards
 29 adopted by the board and must receive approval from the department before offering the
 30 course.

31 (3) In addition to the requirements of subsection (2) of this section, a program with on-
 32 line courses described in subsection (1)(b) of this section must be certified by the depart-
 33 ment, regardless of whether the program is offered through a public school or a public
 34 charter school.

35 (4) The board shall adopt certification standards for programs that provide online courses
 36 described in subsection (1)(b) of this section. Programs may be offered through a public
 37 school or a public charter school and may be offered only to residents of this state. A pro-
 38 gram may be certified under this section if the program meets:

39 (a) Academic content standards, as defined in ORS 329.007;

40 (b) Credit requirements of this state to ensure that online courses are recognized for
 41 credit by school districts;

42 (c) Instructional hour requirements prescribed by rule of the board;

43 (d) Statewide assessment requirements, as prescribed by ORS 329.485;

44 (e) Student record requirements prescribed by the board by rule; and

45 (f) Other criteria adopted by rule of the board.

1 **(5) The department shall ensure that any person who teaches an online course is properly**
2 **licensed or registered as required by ORS 338.135 and 342.173.**

3 **(6) The department shall conduct regular evaluations of online courses and certified**
4 **programs of online courses to ensure that courses and programs meet the requirements**
5 **prescribed by this section.**

6 **(7) Each provider of an online course must provide an annual report to the department**
7 **that includes:**

8 **(a) The number of students who participated in an online course offered by the provider;**

9 **(b) The number of students who completed the online course in which the students were**
10 **enrolled;**

11 **(c) Demographic information regarding the students who participated in an online course**
12 **offered by the provider;**

13 **(d) Qualifications of teachers providing online courses; and**

14 **(e) Information regarding the academic performance of students participating in online**
15 **courses.**

16 **SECTION 3.** **Section 2 of this 2009 Act first applies to online courses and certified pro-**
17 **grams of online courses that are offered in the 2010-2011 school year.**

18