FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Seventy-Sixth Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2011 Regular Session Legislative Fiscal Office

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Measure Description:

Allows school district, group of school districts or education service districts to provide part-time online instruction or full-time online instruction.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Department of Education, School Districts

Summary of Expenditure Impact: See Analysis

Local Government Mandate:

This bill does not affect local governments' service levels or shared revenues sufficient to trigger Section 15, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Analysis:

The measure modifies the provisions related to virtual charter schools including board structure, instructional hours, and enrollment requirements. The measure requires that students receive approval from their resident school district to enroll in a virtual charter school that is not sponsored by the district if more than 3% of the resident students are already enrolled. If the school district does not provide approval, the student may appeal the decision to the State Board of Education, who must issue a decision within 30 days of submission of the appeal.

The fiscal impact is indeterminate. The number of students that will choose to enroll in a virtual charter school is unknown. The Department of Education notes that the State Board of Education does not meet every month and that requiring decisions within 30 days of an appeal submission may require additional meetings or an alternative method of processing and reviewing appeals through department staff or a hearings officer. The estimated costs to the Department will vary depending on the selected method of review.