

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 3 - 0

Yeas: Conger, Huffman, Komp, Parrish, Wingard

Nays: Dembrow, Frederick, Gelser

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Victoria Cox, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 2/4, 2/28

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies the processes and requirements for proposals to establish public charter schools. Requires the State Board of Education to sponsor a public charter school if it finds that a district board is not negotiating with a charter applicant in good faith or in a timely manner. Removes requirement for community groups to be involved in planning of a charter school. Specifies that any ancillary information required by school districts may only be for clarification of information required by statute and must be approved by State Board of Education. Provides that initial charters are valid for five years.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of charter schools legislation
- Charter school application process
- Current obstacles to approval
- Examples of charter school successes and failures
- Accountability for public investment in charter schools
- Length of initial charter approval

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Specifies information to be included in charter school applications, including how community groups may be involved. Deletes limitation of application process to one year from intended opening date. Removes prohibition against school districts considering potential loss of funding in charter decisions. Eliminates 90 day timeline for State Board appeal review. Deletes language specifying that charter renewal is automatic unless contract has been breached to an extent requiring termination.

BACKGROUND: Statutes governing the application process for public charter schools in Oregon were enacted in 1999. Since that time, charter school applicants have identified several issues with the application process that are addressed in House Bill 2287 A. The measure clarifies that the participation of community groups in the application process is not mandatory and deletes provisions requiring public support. Additionally, the bill limits the information school districts can require to that which is identified in statute. House Bill 2287 A also provides that issues not raised in the denial of charter applications cannot be raised in subsequent resubmissions and allows for appeal to the State Board of Education if applicants believe districts are not negotiating in good faith.