

House Bill 2581

Sponsored by Representative BEYER (Pre-session filed.)

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**.

Clarifies and expands duties of Oregon Virtual School District. Requires curriculum that provides at least one-half of program of instruction online to be provided through Oregon Virtual School District.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to the Oregon Virtual School District; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 329.840.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 329.840 is amended to read:

5 329.840. (1) *[There is created]* The Oregon Virtual School District **is created** within the Depart-
6 ment of Education. The purpose of the Oregon Virtual School District is to provide **the resources**
7 **and oversight for quality and comprehensive** online courses to kindergarten through grade 12
8 public school students. **Any curriculum that provides at least one-half of a program of in-**
9 **struction online must be provided through the Oregon Virtual School District.**

10 **(2) For the purpose of providing the resources and oversight of the Oregon Virtual School**
11 **District, the Superintendent of Public Instruction may enter into a contract with a single**
12 **entity that is an education service district, a school district or another appropriate public**
13 **or private entity.**

14 *[(2)]* **(3)(a)** The Oregon Virtual School District shall *[provide]* **establish curricula for** online
15 courses that meet academic content standards as defined in ORS 329.007 and meet other criteria
16 adopted by the State Board of Education. **Courses must meet the credit requirements of this**
17 **state to ensure that courses are recognized for credit by school districts.**

18 **(b) Evidence of successful completion of courses provided through the Oregon Virtual**
19 **School District shall be included in a student's education record.**

20 **(c) The Oregon Virtual School District shall conduct regular evaluations of curricula and**
21 **online courses to ensure that the curricula and courses meet the requirements for credit as**
22 **described in this subsection.**

23 **(4) The Oregon Virtual School District shall ensure that** any person who teaches an online
24 course *[must be properly licensed or registered as required by ORS 338.135 and 342.173 for a person*
25 *employed by a school district or public charter school]* **through the Oregon Virtual School District**
26 **is licensed by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission.**

27 **(5)(a)** All school districts and public charter schools *[may]* **must** allow students to access the
28 online courses offered by the Oregon Virtual School District.

29 **(b) School districts shall provide credit to a student who satisfactorily completes a course**
30 **provided through the Oregon Virtual School District if the course meets the requirements**
31 **for credit as described in subsection (3) of this section.**

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 **(6) School districts, in collaboration with the Oregon Virtual School District, shall de-**
 2 **termine whether enrollment in the Oregon Virtual School District by a student is appropri-**
 3 **ate and shall ensure that a student is adequately placed in courses provided through the**
 4 **Oregon Virtual School District.**

5 **(7)(a) A school district shall ensure that each student enrolled with the Oregon Virtual**
 6 **School District has access to and use of a computer and appropriate Internet service for the**
 7 **purpose of effectively accessing the education program through the Oregon Virtual School**
 8 **District.**

9 **(b) A school district shall provide a computer and Internet service to a student at no cost**
 10 **or at a reduced cost, as appropriate, if the costs of the computer and Internet service cause**
 11 **a severe hardship, as determined by a school district based on policies adopted by the district**
 12 **school board for the school district.**

13 **[(3)] (8) The Superintendent of Public Instruction, on behalf of the Oregon Virtual School**
 14 **District, may contract with [education service districts, school districts, public charter schools, com-**
 15 **munity colleges, state institutions of higher education or any other public entity] any public or private**
 16 **entity to provide online courses through the Oregon Virtual School District.**

17 **[(4)] (9) Statutes and rules that apply to other school districts do not apply to the Oregon Vir-**
 18 **tual School District except as provided under this section or by rule of the State Board of Educa-**
 19 **tion. The Oregon Virtual School District is not considered a school district for purposes of**
 20 **apportionment of the State School Fund and the department may not receive a direct apportionment**
 21 **under ORS 327.008 from the State School Fund for the Oregon Virtual School District.**

22 **[(5)] (10) The board may adopt the rules necessary for the administration of the Oregon Virtual**
 23 **School District and shall adopt rules to establish:**

24 **(a) The procedure and criteria to be used for the selection of online courses to be offered**
 25 **through the Oregon Virtual School District;**

26 **(b) The qualifications of students who may access online courses through the Oregon Virtual**
 27 **School District;**

28 **(c) The number of credits for which students may access online courses through the Oregon**
 29 **Virtual School District; and**

30 **(d) The student-to-teacher ratio for online courses offered through the Oregon Virtual School**
 31 **District.**

32 **SECTION 2. The provisions of ORS 329.840, as amended by section 1 of this 2011 Act, that**
 33 **require certain online curricula to be provided through the Oregon Virtual School District**
 34 **apply only to online curricula that are provided as the result of a contract or charter that**
 35 **is entered into or extended on or after the effective date of this 2011 Act.**