

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued**

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**Action:** Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

**Vote:** 5 - 0 - 0

**Yeas:** Beyer, Knopp, Kruse, Roblan, Hass

**Nays:** 0

**Exc.:** 0

**Prepared By:** Richard Donovan, Administrator

**Meeting Dates:** 3/28, 4/4

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Allows for use of mascot that represents a specific Native American tribe if the governing body of that tribe has entered into an agreement, describing acceptable uses of the mascot, with the entity using the mascot.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Racial categorization of ethnicities generally, Native Americans specifically
- Lexicographical history of words such as “tribe,” “warrior,” and “brave,” all European in origin
- Other ethnically-derived mascots, such as Celtics, Scots, Trojans, etc.
- Stereotypes as tacit approval of racism, racial categorizations
- Recent history or State Board of Education impetus, specifically Shea Butler (student)
- Thoroughness of State Board of Education process, spanning more than five years
- General national condemnation by Native American organizations, groups, and tribes of all Native American mascots
- Desire of many of Oregon’s nine federally recognized tribes to have local control of their image, including mascot representation
- Local control option as necessarily causing dialogue, relationship-building between tribes and local communities

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Replaces the measure.

**BACKGROUND:** The Oregon State Board of Education adopted OAR 581-021-0047 on May 17, 2012 prohibiting public schools from using Native American mascots. Public schools have until July 1, 2017 to comply before the Superintendent of Public Instruction may withhold all or part of state funding appropriated to the school district. The prohibition of Native American mascots includes the use of team names: Redskins, Savages, Indians, Indianettes, Chiefs, Chieftains, and Braves, along with any visual image or symbol that depicts American Indian Tribes. Public schools are allowed to continue the use of the team name “Warrior” if the image or symbol does not depict an American Indian. Senate Bill 215-A prevents the State Board of Education from adopting rules related to the use of mascots by public kindergartens and public elementary and secondary schools. The measure prevents the State Board of Education from withholding state funding from school districts with elementary or secondary schools. Senate Bill 215-A effectively nullifies the rules previously adopted by the Oregon State Board of Education.

4/8/2013 9:20:00 AM

*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*