

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 8 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Fagan, Gomberg, Gorsek, Huffman, Parrish, Reardon, Whisnant, Gelser

Nays: 0

Exc.: Sprenger

Prepared By: Rick Berkobien, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/22, 4/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows expiring charter of public charter school to remain in effect until new charter is negotiated, following approval of renewal of charter. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Purpose of bill to fix potential “glitch”
- Origin of bill, Philomath School District and King’s Valley Charter School
- Impact of bill on families

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: A charter school in Oregon is a public school operated by a group of parents, teachers and/or community members as a semi-autonomous school of choice within a school district. It is given the authority to operate under a contract or "charter" between the members of the charter school community and the local board of education (sponsor). Under Oregon law, a charter school is a separate legal entity operating under a binding agreement with a sponsor. A public charter school is subject to certain laws pertaining to school district public schools, is released from others and must operate consistent with the charter agreement.

ORS 338.065 establishes the process, parameters, and procedure for charter school renewal. Under current law, when a sponsor approves a renewal, the public school governing body and sponsor negotiate a new charter within 90 days or as otherwise agreed upon. House Bill 2875 adds to this provision of the law and states that, “[n]otwithstanding the time period specified in the charter, an expiring charter shall remain in effect until a new charter is negotiated.”