

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Education

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Gretchen Engbring, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 4/7, 4/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows public charter schools to give priority to students from historically underserved student groups, as identified by culture, poverty, language or race. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Role that charter schools play in educating historically underserved groups
- Need to include students with disabilities in definition of historically underserved groups
- Potential constitutional issues of the proposed legislation
- Limited ability to prioritize historically underserved groups under current law

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

-5 amendments (proposed) allow public charter school to implement weighted lottery for historically underserved students. Defines “historically underserved students” as students at risk because of any combination of their race, ethnicity, English language proficiency, socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation, disability and geographic location.

BACKGROUND: ORS 338.125 currently prohibits public charter schools from limiting student enrollment based on race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, national origin, disability, the terms of an individualized education program, income level, proficiency in the English language or athletic ability. If the number of applications from students who reside in the school district exceed the school’s capacity, ORS 338.125 requires the public charter school to select students through a lottery, but allows schools that have existed for one or more years to prioritize previously enrolled students, siblings, or students who reside in the school district that is the sponsor of the public charter school or in a school district that is a party to the cooperative agreement with the charter school.

As introduced, Senate Bill 820 amends ORS 338.125, allowing public charter schools to additionally give priority to students from historically underserved student groups, as identified by culture, poverty, language or race.

4/20/2015 8:56:00 AM *

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

Committee Services Form – 2015 Regular Session