

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Education

MEASURE: SB 820 A
CARRIER: Sen. Kruse

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/21/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Meeting Dates: 04/07, 04/21

Vote:

Yeas: 6 - Baertschiger Jr, Beyer, Hass, Knopp, Kruse, Roblan

Nays: 1 - Gelser

Prepared By: Gretchen Engbring, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows public charter school to implement weighted lottery for historically underserved students. Defines “historically underserved students” as students at risk because of any combination of race, ethnicity, English language proficiency, socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and geographic location. 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 legislation
- Limited ability of charter schools to prioritize historically underserved groups under current law
- Existing ability of charter schools to better serve traditionally underserved groups by increasing outreach and assistance to underserved groups during the application process

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

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.

Senate Bill 820-A amends ORS 338.125 to allow public charter schools to implement a weighted lottery for historically underserved students. The bill defines “historically underserved students” as students at risk because of any combination of race, ethnicity, English language proficiency, socioeconomic status, gender, sexual orientation, disability and geographic location.