



House Bill 4091: Study of Virtual Public Charter Schools

Background:

Oregon maintains funding for schools on dollar amount-per-pupil basis. Public dollars are allocated to public, charter, and virtual public charter schools for educational purposes. The state wants to make sure there is transparency and accountability with how our education dollars are spent.

Problem:

Currently, funding for education in Oregon is limited. The public expects accountability and a review of public dollars spent in our schools. Virtual public charter schools provide an important service to students that are unable to participate in traditional schools. However, they abide by different standards and regulations in regards to their governance. The state of Oregon owes a duty of care and review to taxpayers and students to ensure that all schools are using our public education funds to create the best possible outcomes for all students.

Solution:

This bill seeks to establish accountability for virtual public charter schools in order to insure that all children in Oregon who are educated with public dollars have access to a quality education; whether they attend a public school or virtual public charter school. The bill creates a study that closely examines how public dollars are being utilized in virtual public charter schools, assesses whether or not such schools are meeting standards established in their plans, and clarifies requirements for virtual public charter schools.

HB 4091:

- Creates a study to be conducted by the Department of Education's RFP process to be submitted to the legislature no later than October 15th, 2016.
- Requires that the annual evaluation of virtual public charter school address whether or not the school is meeting performance goals outlined in the school's plan and contract requirements.