

HB 3313 -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 5/9, 5/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows public charter school to give priority admission to students who reside within service boundaries of non-chartered public school that closed not more than two years before charter school began to operate.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of Coburg Community Charter School and its creation
- History of Sauvie Island School District and conversion to charter school
- Priority admission process for Sauvie Island: siblings of current students, children of staff, students on the island, in-district students and then out-of-district students
- Contractual one-year allowance from State Board of Education and comparison to federal allowance
- Allowance of small number of schools to maintain acceptance procedures enrolling outside students

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-4 Allows public charter school to give priority admission to students who reside within service boundaries of non-chartered public school that closed not more than two years before charter school began to operate if the following conditions are met:

- the school district that closed the nonchartered public school is the sponsor of the public charter school;
- the public charter school is physically located within the attendance boundaries of the closed school; and
- the school district board approved the public charter school giving priority to students of the closed school.

Allows district school boards to act at any time during the term of a charter and does not require an amendment to a charter.

BACKGROUND:

State law requires all charter schools to comply with state and federal anti-discrimination laws. It provides preference for prior-year students who attended the charter school, students who reside in the district where the charter school is currently located and students with siblings at the school. Priority admission does not guarantee acceptance into the charter school. Charter schools can require a lottery to select students, and any lottery process may be weighted to serve underserved student populations in Oregon.

The State Board of Education ('Board') does not allow geographical waivers for schools that convert into a charter school and give preference to select students who attended before the conversion. In 2012, the Board worked with the Sauvie Island charter school to allow it the authority to grant priority acceptance to students on the Island. Since that time, the Sauvie Island charter school has followed a priority list for student acceptance (listed in order of preference): siblings of current students, children of staff, students on the island, in-district students and then out-of-district students. The allowance from the Board is given on a contractual basis annually.

House Bill 3313 allows a geographic waiver for schools that convert into public charter schools, granting them authority to give priority admission to students who resided within the service boundaries of a public school that closed, limited to schools that closed not more than two years before the charter school began operating.