

**B-Engrossed**  
**House Bill 2720**

Ordered by the House June 29  
Including House Amendments dated April 14 and June 29

Sponsored by Representative MCLAIN; Representatives KENY-GUYER, PILUSO, SMITH WARNER (Presession filed.)

**SUMMARY**

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

Directs Department of Education to conduct study related to certain virtual public charter schools.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

1  
2 Relating to study of virtual public charter schools; and declaring an emergency.

3       Whereas the financial resources available to the public schools in this state are limited; and

4       Whereas the Oregon education system consists of a variety of school models, and those models  
5 must be understood; and

6       Whereas virtual public charter schools play a vital role in the Oregon education system; now,  
7 therefore,

8 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

9       **SECTION 1.** Section 2 of this 2017 Act is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 338.

10       **SECTION 2.** (1) **The Department of Education shall conduct a study of virtual public**  
11 **charter schools that operate under this chapter.**

12       (2) **The results of the study conducted under this section must include a description of**  
13 **the following:**

14       (a) **The state and federal resources available to virtual public charter schools;**

15       (b) **The resources available to each virtual public charter school described in subsection**  
16 **(1) of this section from the sponsor of the school;**

17       (c) **The differences in resources available to nonvirtual public schools and virtual public**  
18 **charter schools;**

19       (d) **The financial and working relationships between each virtual public charter school**  
20 **described in subsection (1) of this section and the sponsor of the school;**

21       (e) **The types and regularity of reviews of each virtual public charter school described in**  
22 **subsection (1) of this section by the sponsor of the school;**

23       (f) **The populations served by each virtual public charter school described in subsection**  
24 **(1) of this section, including:**

25       (A) **The demographics of the students of the school;**

26       (B) **The average number of credits by which students are deficient when the students**  
27 **enroll in the school; and**

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (C) The educational experience of the students prior to enrolling in the school, including  
2 the type of school the student previously enrolled in, the number of years the student was  
3 enrolled in the previous school and any known disciplinary issues;

4 (g) The reasons why students and parents typically choose to attend a virtual public  
5 charter school, based on surveys submitted to students and parents of the virtual public  
6 charter schools described in subsection (1) of this section;

7 (h) Any orientations or introductions given to students before the students' first day of  
8 school at a virtual public charter school described in subsection (1) of this section;

9 (i) Differences between the populations served by nonvirtual public schools and virtual  
10 public charter schools;

11 (j) The success rates of students in each virtual public charter school described in sub-  
12 section (1) of this section, as based on the growth of the students in addition to graduation  
13 rates, test scores or ranking systems of the students;

14 (k) Promising practices for online learning; and

15 (L) National trends related to online learning.

16 (3) The results of the study conducted under this section may not include any ranking  
17 of the schools reviewed under the study.

18 (4) The results of the study conducted under this section may be used to assist the de-  
19 partment in determining what types of data the department should be regularly collecting  
20 from virtual public charter schools and how to collect the data.

21 (5) All public charter schools and agencies of state government, as defined in ORS  
22 174.111, are directed to assist the department in the performance of its duties and, to the  
23 extent permitted by laws related to confidentiality, to furnish such information and advice  
24 as the department considers necessary to perform its duties. When requesting assistance  
25 from public charter schools and school districts, the department shall make every effort to  
26 minimize costs to the schools and school districts.

27 (6) The department shall submit a report to the interim committees of the Legislative  
28 Assembly related to education no later than:

29 (a) December 15, 2017, for a report on the progress of the study conducted under this  
30 section; and

31 (b) September 15, 2018, for a report on the results of the study conducted under this  
32 section.

33 **SECTION 3.** Section 2 of this 2017 Act is repealed on January 2, 2019.

34 **SECTION 4.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the General Fund appropriation  
35 made to the Department of Education for operations by section 1 (1), chapter \_\_, Oregon  
36 Laws 2017 (Senate Bill 5516), for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, is increased by \$80,000  
37 for the purpose of conducting the study on virtual public charter schools as described in  
38 section 2 of this 2017 Act.

39 **SECTION 5.** This 2017 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public  
40 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2017 Act takes effect  
41 on its passage.