

House Bill 2720

Sponsored by Representative MCLAIN (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 **as introduced**.

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**

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

31 **(g) The reasons why students and parents typically choose to attend a virtual public**

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 charter school, based on surveys submitted to students and parents of the virtual public
2 charter schools described in subsection (1) of this section;

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

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

7 (j) The success rates of students in each virtual public charter school described in sub-
8 section (1) of this section, as based on the growth of the students instead of graduation
9 rates, test scores or ranking systems of the students;

10 (k) Promising practices for online learning; and

11 (L) National trends related to online learning.

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

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

17 (5) All public charter schools and agencies of state government, as defined in ORS
18 174.111, are directed to assist the department in the performance of its duties and, to the
19 extent permitted by laws related to confidentiality, to furnish such information and advice
20 as the department considers necessary to perform its duties. When requesting assistance
21 from public charter schools and school districts, the department shall make every effort to
22 minimize costs to the schools and school districts.

23 (6) The department shall submit a report on the results of the study conducted under this
24 section to the interim legislative committees on education no later than December 15, 2017.

25 **SECTION 3.** Section 2 of this 2017 Act is repealed on January 2, 2018.

26 **SECTION 4.** In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropri-
27 ated to the Department of Education, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, out of the
28 General Fund, the amount of \$100,000, which may be expended for the study described in
29 section 2 of this 2017 Act.

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