

Senate Bill 240

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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**.

Removes limitation on percentage of students in school district who may enroll in virtual public charter school not sponsored by school district without first receiving approval from school district.

Removes requirement that school district that does not give approval for enrollment in virtual public charter school not sponsored by school district provide information about other online options available to students.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to enrollment in virtual public charter schools; creating new provisions; amending ORS
3 338.025 and 338.125; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 338.125 is amended to read:

6 338.125. (1) Student enrollment in a public charter school is voluntary.

7 (2)(a) All students who reside in the school district in which the public charter school is located
8 are eligible for enrollment in the public charter school if space is available.

9 (b) Students who do not reside in the school district in which the public charter school is lo-
10 cated are eligible for enrollment in the public charter school if space is available [*and subject to*
11 *subsection (4) of this section*].

12 (c) A public charter school may not limit student enrollment based on race, religion, sex, sexual
13 orientation, ethnicity, national origin, disability, the terms of an individualized education program,
14 income level, proficiency in the English language or athletic ability.

15 (3)(a) Except as provided by paragraphs (b) and (c) of this subsection, if the number of applica-
16 tions from students who reside in the school district exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade
17 level or building, the public charter school shall select students through an equitable lottery se-
18 lection process.

19 (b)(A) A public charter school may give priority for admission to students who reside within the
20 attendance boundaries that were in effect at the time a school district closed a nonchartered public
21 school if:

22 (i) The public charter school began to operate not more than two years after the nonchartered
23 public school was closed;

24 (ii) The school district that closed the nonchartered public school is the sponsor of the public
25 charter school;

26 (iii) The public charter school is physically located within the attendance boundaries of the
27 closed nonchartered public school; and

28 (iv) The school district board, through board action, approved the public charter school giving

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 priority as described in this paragraph.

2 (B) Nothing in this paragraph requires an amendment to a charter. A school district board may
3 take an action described in subparagraph (A)(iv) of this paragraph at any time during the term of
4 a charter.

5 (c) After a public charter school has been in operation for one or more years, the public charter
6 school may give priority for admission to students who:

7 (A) Were enrolled in the school in the prior year;

8 (B) Have siblings who are presently enrolled in the school and who were enrolled in the school
9 in the prior year; or

10 (C) If the public charter school is a party to a cooperative agreement described in ORS 338.080,
11 reside in the school district that is the sponsor of the public charter school or in a school district
12 that is a party to the cooperative agreement.

13 [(4)(a)] (4) A student who wishes to enroll in a virtual public charter school does not need the
14 approval of the school district where the student is a resident before the student enrolls in the
15 virtual public charter school. If a student wishes to enroll in a virtual public charter school, the
16 parent, legal guardian or person in parental relationship with the student must provide the following
17 notices to the school district where the student is a resident:

18 [(A)] (a) Intent to enroll the student in a virtual public charter school; and

19 [(B)] (b) Enrollment of the student in a virtual public charter school.

20 [(b)(A) *Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection and ORS 339.133, if more than three*
21 *percent of the students who reside in a school district are enrolled in virtual public charter schools that*
22 *are not sponsored by the school district, a student who is a resident of the school district must receive*
23 *approval from the school district before enrolling in a virtual public charter school. A school district*
24 *is not required to give approval if more than three percent of the students who reside in the school*
25 *district are enrolled in virtual public charter schools that are not sponsored by the school district.*]

26 [(B) *For the purpose of determining whether more than three percent of the students who reside in*
27 *the school district are enrolled in virtual public charter schools that are not sponsored by the school*
28 *district, the school district board shall include any students who:*]

29 [(i) *Reside in the school district, regardless of whether the students are considered residents of*
30 *different school districts as provided by ORS 339.133 (5); and]*

31 [(ii) *Are enrolled in virtual public charter schools that are not sponsored by the school district.*]

32 [(C) *Students who reside in the school district, regardless of whether the students are considered*
33 *residents of different school districts as provided by ORS 339.133 (5), must receive approval from the*
34 *school district before enrolling in a virtual public charter school if the limit described in subparagraph*
35 *(A) of this paragraph has been met.*]

36 [(c) *If the school district does not give approval under paragraph (b) of this subsection, the school*
37 *district must provide information to the parent, legal guardian or person in parental relationship with*
38 *the student about the right to appeal the decision to the State Board of Education and other online*
39 *options available to the student. If an appeal is made to the State Board of Education, the board must*
40 *issue a decision within 30 days of the submission of the appeal.*]

41 (5) Within 10 days of a student's enrollment in a public charter school, the public charter school
42 shall provide written notice of the student's enrollment to the school district in which the public
43 charter school is located if the student does not reside in the school district where the public
44 charter school is located.

45 (6) Within 10 days of receiving the notice described in subsection (5) of this section, the school

1 district in which the public charter school is located shall provide to the student's parent, legal
2 guardian or person in parental relationship written information about:

3 (a) The school district's responsibility to identify, locate and evaluate students enrolled in the
4 public charter school to determine which students may be in need of special education and related
5 services as provided by ORS 338.165; and

6 (b) The methods by which the school district may be contacted to answer questions or provide
7 information related to special education and related services.

8 (7) When a student described in subsection (5) of this section withdraws from a public charter
9 school for a reason other than graduation from high school, the school district in which the public
10 charter school is located shall:

11 (a) Provide to the school district in which the student resides written notice that the student
12 has withdrawn.

13 (b) Provide to the student's parent, legal guardian or person in parental relationship written
14 information about:

15 (A) The responsibility of the school district in which the student resides to identify, locate and
16 evaluate students who reside in the school district to determine which students may be in need of
17 special education and related services as provided by ORS 338.165; and

18 (B) The methods by which the school district in which the student resides may be contacted to
19 answer questions or provide information related to special education and related services.

20 (8)(a) If a student described in subsection (5) of this section enrolls in a public charter school
21 and has an individualized education program, the school district in which the public charter school
22 is located must implement the individualized education program and follow the terms of the indi-
23 vidualized education program until a new individualized education program is developed.

24 (b) If a student described in subsection (5) of this section withdraws from a public charter school
25 and has an individualized education program, the school district in which the student resides must
26 implement the individualized education program and follow the terms of the individualized education
27 program until a new individualized education program is developed.

28 (9) When a virtual public charter school enrolls a student or a student no longer is enrolled in
29 a virtual public charter school, the virtual public charter school shall provide the written notices
30 described in ORS 338.120 (1)(m) and (n) to the school district where the student is a resident.

31 (10) A public charter school may conduct fund-raising activities but may not require a student
32 to participate in fund-raising activities as a condition of admission to the public charter school.

33 **SECTION 2.** ORS 338.025 is amended to read:

34 338.025. (1) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules necessary for the implementation
35 of this chapter. The rules shall follow the intent of this chapter.

36 (2) Upon application by a public charter school, the State Board of Education may grant a
37 waiver of any provision of this chapter if the waiver promotes the development of programs by
38 providers, enhances the equitable access by underserved families to the public education of their
39 choice, extends the equitable access to public support by all students or permits high quality pro-
40 grams of unusual cost. The State Board of Education may not waive any appeal provision in this
41 chapter or any provision under ORS 338.115 (1)(a) to (aa), 338.120, [338.125 (4),] 338.135 (2)(b) or
42 339.122.

43 **SECTION 3.** (1) **The amendments to ORS 338.025 and 338.125 by sections 1 and 2 of this**
44 **2021 Act become operative on July 1, 2021.**

45 (2) **The amendments to ORS 338.125 by section 1 of this 2021 Act first apply to the**

1 **2021-2022 school year.**

2 **(3) Notwithstanding the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section, a stu-**
3 **dent is not required to receive approval from the student's resident school district before**
4 **enrolling in a virtual public charter school that is not sponsored by the student's resident**
5 **school district before the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section if the en-**
6 **rollment is for the 2021-2022 school year or any other subsequent school year.**

7 **SECTION 4. This 2021 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**
8 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2021 Act takes effect**
9 **on its passage.**

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