

SB 767 -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 2/2, 2/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Repeals ability of brick-and-mortar charter schools to operate outside their sponsoring districts. Allows virtual charter schools to operate only tutoring or testing facilities outside their sponsoring districts. Requires brick-and-mortar charter schools that operated facilities outside their sponsoring districts within the 12 months preceding passage of the bill to submit a proposal for sponsorship to all districts in which they operate within 14 days. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Needs of charter schools
- Difficulty securing space

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-4 Replaces the measure. Establishes ability of both virtual and nonvirtual public charter schools to open facilities outside their sponsoring districts after obtaining written permission or providing written notification, dependent on specific circumstances. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

BACKGROUND:

In 1999, the Legislative Assembly enacted Senate Bill 100, creating laws regulating public charter schools. The law created a process for those wishing to open public charter schools to apply for sponsorship and for local boards to evaluate and approve applications. Current law requires specific elements be included in a proposal for sponsorship, establishes requirements for the evaluation process and criteria, and allows the State Board of Education to both review local board decisions and to sponsor public charter schools itself.

Public charter schools receive public funding. Students enrolled in the public charter school are considered residents of the school district in which the public charter school is located. Money flows from the state to the district and then to the charter schools, with districts able to withhold up to 20 percent for public charter school students in grades K-8 and 5 percent for students enrolled in grades 9-12.

In 2001, the legislature enacted House Bill 2291, allowing district school boards to operate schools in other districts with the written permission of the other school board. In 2015, this law was amended by House Bill 3044 to allow public charter schools to open schools in districts other than their sponsoring district by notifying the receiving district. Senate Bill 767 repeals the ability of brick-and-mortar public charter schools to operate schools outside their sponsoring district, and requires those that have opened within the last 12 months to seek sponsorship through the process outlined in ORS Chapter 338.