



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

Oregon State Legislature
State Capitol
Salem, OR

NEWS RELEASE

June 6, 2017

CONTACT: Rick Osborn (503) 986-1074
Rick.osborn@oregonlegislature.gov

Senate Democrats champion bill to help homeless youth

HB 3267 removes barriers to graduation for homeless and foster children

SALEM – The Oregon Senate Democrats passed a bill today that will help several types of “at risk” and other youth graduate from high school, giving them a greater foothold to obtain gainful employment and get started down a career path.

House Bill 3267 – which was carried by Sen. Michael Dembrow (D-Portland) to passage on the Senate floor by a 30-0 vote – allows public school districts and charter schools to waive certain graduation requirements specific only to that school district or charter school for foster children, homeless children, runaway students, children in military families, children of migrant workers or children enrolled in the Youth Corrections Education Program or Juvenile Detention Education Program.

“We keep moving the goalposts for students who have been uprooted repeatedly and just want to receive a regular high school diploma,” Dembrow said. “They shouldn’t be punished just because their final high school has requirements that weren’t there in their earlier schools.”

The Oregon State Board of Education requires students to complete 24 total credits, including three credits in mathematics and four in English, to graduate from high school with a standard diploma in Oregon. Additional course credit requirements must satisfy content standards established by the State Board of Education, and school districts and public charter schools can add additional graduation requirements. This bill requires school districts to waive those requirements for the specified student classifications.

The bill applies to students in the ninth through 12th grades who meet specific criteria. It requires those districts and charter schools also to accept credits earned by the student in

another district or charter school and apply those credits toward the 24 credit hours of graduation requirements.

“This bill gives students who have come from challenging backgrounds a better chance to complete high school,” Dembrow said. “Once these students graduate, they are more likely to get a good-paying job they can support themselves with, or go to college or trade school to further their job skills to achieve their career goals. This does not affect the quality of education in Oregon and gives thousands of disadvantaged youth statewide a fighting chance to lead productive lives.”

HB 3267 now goes to Gov. Kate Brown for signature.

###