



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

Oregon State Legislature
State Capitol
Salem, OR

NEWS RELEASE

April 26, 2017

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Bill allows all Oregon students to participate in activities

SB 208 requires student to live in attendance area of school where they compete

SALEM – The Oregon Senate is helping charter school students around the state take part in extracurricular activities that might not be available to them now in their current schools.

Senate Bill 208 – which passed by a 27-2 vote on the Senate floor – requires that school districts and associations allow public charter school students to participate in interscholastic athletics and other activities at the nearest school within their home district that offers those activities.

“This gives charter school kids an opportunity to participate in sports and other activities that enrich their education and life experience, as well as create memories that these students will carry with them the rest of their lives,” said Sen. Arnie Roblan (D-Coos Bay), who introduced and carried the legislation. “Home school students already can participate in organized activities through their local school districts and we should be extending the same opportunities to charter school students.”

School districts would be required to allow home school and public charter school students to participate in all interscholastic activities if the student meets all district eligibility requirements except attendance and class requirements. Academic requirements can be measured by state-approved test scores at a certain threshold or some other method deemed appropriate by the school district.

The student must live within the attendance boundaries of the school where they will be participating in the activity and all students must comply with the same behavior and responsibility standards. The bill also places a limit on how much a school district may charge the charter school for the student to participate in the activity.

Throughout Oregon, students participate in 26 interscholastic activities including athletics, choir, band, orchestra, cheerleading and speech and debate. Under current law, schools must allow home school students to participate in interscholastic activities, but they can deny charter school students from participating. This bill prohibits that policy and creates an opportunity for charter school students to participate in activities that enrich their educational and childhood experience.

Senate Bill 208 now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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