

HB 3409 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 5/8, 5/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes a school district to be a member of and pays fees, if any, to any interscholastic organization only if the organization implements policies that address the use of derogatory or inappropriate behavior that occur at interscholastic activities, maintains a transparent complaint process, develops and implements a sanction system, and performs an annual survey of students and their parents to understand and respond to potential policy violations. Requires complaint process to have a reporting system, to respond to a complaint within 48 hours, and to strive to resolve a complaint within 30 days. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2019.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Recent incidents of racism and inappropriate behavior at school sporting events
- Stories of Oregon student athletes who experience racism while participating in school sporting competitions
- Importance of youth sports and other activities
- Importance of having standards for appropriate behavior of students, parents, and spectators
- Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) role in monitoring behavior at Oregon sporting events
- Adequacy of OSAA policies and sanctions
- Oversight of middle school sports and other activities
- OSAA's authority to sanction schools or students at non-state events
- OSAA's ability to meet the timelines in bill
- Ability of school districts to comply with current policies and requirements on behavior at school-sponsored events
- Need for more training for school administrators
- Adequacy of bill's scope and requirements

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Changes the effective date from July 1, 2019 to September 1, 2019.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 332.075 permits a school board to authorize the school district to be a member of and pay fees, if any, to any voluntary organization that administers interscholastic activities or that facilitates the scheduling and programming of interscholastic activities. Interscholastic activities include athletics, music, speech, and other similar activities. The Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) is the primary organization for administering interscholastic activities at the high-school level. School districts are responsible for monitoring activities in elementary and middle schools. House Bill 3409 permits a school district to join an interscholastic organization only if the organization has specified policies that address derogatory or inappropriate behavior at interscholastic activities.