

Senate Passes Bill Mandating Physical Education Standards

SALEM – The Oregon State Senate passed House Bill 3141 this afternoon by a 28-1 margin. The bill, which includes a minimum minutes requirement for physical education in schools, passed the House by a 52-2 margin on Monday. The physical education component was originally sponsored by Senate President Peter Courtney (D-Salem/Gervais/Woodburn) to fight rising levels of obesity among Oregon’s children.

“Today Oregon took a strong step toward fighting an epidemic” said Senator Peter Courtney. “The return of physical activity to our classrooms will lead to healthy bodies and healthy minds for our children.”

House Bill 3141 would require 150 minutes of physical education a week for grades K-5 and 225 minutes for grades 6-8. The bill also provides \$860,000 for a Department of Education grant program to assist school districts in hiring new P.E. teachers and training current ones.

HB 3141 provides \$140,000 for the Department of Education to collect data from schools on the number of minutes of physical education currently provided to students in grades K-8. The bill also requires schools to spend at least 50% of physical education class time each week on actual physical activity.

HB 3141 now heads to the Governor’s desk for his signature.