

2010 -- H 7208

LC00714

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - ESTABLISHMENT OF CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Introduced By: Representatives Gablinske, Fox, Vaudreuil, Silva, and Mattiello

Date Introduced: January 26, 2010

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-77-8 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-77 entitled
2 "Establishment of Charter Public Schools" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-77-8. Oversight by commissioner.** -- (a) Individuals or groups may complain to a
4 charter school's governing body concerning any claimed violation of the provisions of this
5 chapter by the school. If, after presenting their complaint to the governing body, the individuals
6 or groups believe their complaint has not been adequately addressed, they may submit their
7 complaint to the commissioner of elementary and secondary education who shall hear and decide
8 the issue pursuant to sections 16-39-1 and 16-39-2.

9 (b) Charter school approval for establishment or continuation shall be for up to a five (5)
10 year period. In either case, board of regents approval is required. However, the charter may be
11 revoked at any time if the school:

12 (1) Materially violates provisions contained in the charter;

13 (2) Fails to meet or pursue the educational objectives contained in the charter;

14 (3) Fails to comply with fiscal accountability procedures as specified in the charter; or

15 (4) Violates provisions of law that have not been granted variance by the board of
16 regents.

17 (c) After denying or prior to nonrenewing or revoking a charter, the department of
18 elementary and secondary education will hold a hearing on the issues in controversy under
19 section 16-39-1.

1 (d) ~~No more than twenty (20) charters, serving no more than four percent (4%) of the~~
2 ~~state's school age population, shall be granted.~~ At least ~~ten (10)~~ one-half of the ~~twenty (20) total~~
3 ~~charters~~ total number of charter public schools in the state shall be reserved for charter school
4 applications which are designed to increase the educational opportunities for at-risk pupils.

5 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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- 1 This act would remove the limit of twenty (20) charter schools and require at least one-
2 half of the total number of charter public schools in the state to be reserved for charter school
3 applications that are designed to increase the educational opportunities for at-risk pupils.
4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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