

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE DRH30287-MK-148 (03/25)

Short Title: Charter School Changes.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Saine, Hardister, Bryan, and Brockman (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ENHANCE THE CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION PROCESS; TO  
3 ALLOW CHARTER SCHOOLS TO ESTABLISH CERTAIN FEES; TO DIRECT THE  
4 JOINT LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO STUDY  
5 CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES; AND TO  
6 DIRECT THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO  
7 STUDY THE RULES, PROCEDURES, AND POLICIES APPLICABLE TO CHARTER  
8 SCHOOLS.

9 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

10 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-218.1 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

11 "(d) As part of the application review process, the State Board of Education and the  
12 North Carolina Charter Schools Advisory Board shall evaluate charter school applications for  
13 approval or rejection based upon the content and substance of the applications to determine  
14 whether boards of directors and charter schools may exhibit a higher likelihood of meeting the  
15 requirements set forth in G.S. 115C-218.5(a). Format issues with an application shall not  
16 impact the substantive review of the content of an application. The State Board of Education  
17 and the Advisory Board shall provide timely notification to an applicant of any format issues or  
18 incomplete information regarding the application and provide the applicant at least five  
19 business days to correct those issues in the application. The Advisory Board shall permit an  
20 applicant to address the Advisory Board regarding the application for at least 10 minutes  
21 immediately prior to any final vote on an application."

22 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-218.50 reads as rewritten:

23 "**§ 115C-218.50. Charter school ~~nonsectarian, nonsectarian; student fees.~~**

24 A charter school shall be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment  
25 practices, and all other operations and shall not charge tuition or fees, except that a charter  
26 ~~school~~school, upon approval by the board of directors, may charge any fees that ~~are~~may be  
27 charged by ~~the~~a local school administrative unit in which the charter school is located, board of  
28 education. Each year, a charter school shall submit to the Department of Public Instruction a  
29 schedule of fees charged to students. A charter school shall not be affiliated with a nonpublic  
30 sectarian school or a religious institution."

31 **SECTION 3.(a)** The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee shall study  
32 the funding formulas applicable to students with disabilities enrolled in charter schools and the  
33 allocation of those funds to charter schools. In addition, the Committee shall examine the  
34 provision of services to students with disabilities by charter schools to identify potential  
35 strategies to (i) improve the academic performance of these students, (ii) provide financial



1 stability for charter schools that serve substantial numbers of these students, and (iii) increase  
2 the effectiveness of the cost of the services provided to these students.

3 **SECTION 3.(b)** The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee shall report  
4 its findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation, on the study required by this  
5 section to the 2016 Regular Session of the 2015 General Assembly.

6 **SECTION 4.(a)** The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee shall study  
7 the body of rules, procedures, and policies applicable to charter schools to ascertain whether  
8 those rules, procedures, and policies are necessary to carry out the purposes set forth in the  
9 charter school statutes, Article 14A of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes, and whether the  
10 administrative burden on charter schools is reasonable, particularly charter schools with a small  
11 number of administrative personnel.

12 **SECTION 4.(b)** The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee shall report  
13 its findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation, on the study required by this  
14 section to the 2016 Regular Session of the 2015 General Assembly.

15 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law. Section 1 of this act  
16 applies to initial applications for and the renewal of a charter on or after that date.