



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 21**

January Session, 2005

Substitute House Bill No. 6681

*House of Representatives, March 8, 2005*

The Committee on Education reported through REP. FLEISCHMANN of the 18th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING CHARTER RENEWAL IN CHARTER SCHOOLS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsections (e) to (g), inclusive, of section 10-66bb of the  
2 general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
3 thereof (*Effective from passage*):

4 (e) An application for the establishment of a local charter school  
5 shall be submitted to the local or regional board of education of the  
6 school district in which the local charter school is to be located for  
7 approval pursuant to this subsection. The local or regional board of  
8 education shall: (1) Review the application; (2) hold a public hearing in  
9 the school district on such application; (3) survey teachers and parents  
10 in the school district to determine if there is sufficient interest in the  
11 establishment and operation of the local charter school; and (4) vote on  
12 a complete application not later than sixty days after the date of receipt

13 of such application. Such board of education may approve the  
14 application by a majority vote of the members of the board present and  
15 voting at a regular or special meeting of the board called for such  
16 purpose. If the application is approved, the board shall forward the  
17 application to the State Board of Education. The State Board of  
18 Education shall vote on the application not later than seventy-five days  
19 after the date of receipt of such application. Subject to the provisions of  
20 subsection (c) of this section, the State Board of Education may  
21 approve the application and grant the charter for the local charter  
22 school or reject such application by a majority vote of the members of  
23 the state board present and voting at a regular or special meeting of  
24 the state board called for such purpose. The State Board of Education  
25 may condition the opening of such school on the school's meeting  
26 certain conditions determined by the Commissioner of Education to be  
27 necessary and may authorize the commissioner to release the charter  
28 when the commissioner determines such conditions are met. The state  
29 board may grant the initial charter for the local charter school for a  
30 period of time of up to five years and may allow the applicant to delay  
31 its opening for a period of up to one school year in order for the  
32 applicant to fully prepare to provide appropriate instructional services.

33 (f) An application for the establishment of a state charter school  
34 shall be (1) submitted to the State Board of Education for approval in  
35 accordance with the provisions of this subsection, and (2) filed with the  
36 local or regional board of education in the school district in which the  
37 charter school is to be located. The state board shall: (A) Review such  
38 application; (B) hold a public hearing on such application in the school  
39 district in which such state charter school is to be located; (C) solicit  
40 and review comments on the application from the local or regional  
41 board of education for the school district in which such charter school  
42 is to be located and from the local or regional boards of education for  
43 school districts that are contiguous to the district in which such school  
44 is to be located; and (D) vote on a complete application not later than  
45 seventy-five days after the date of receipt of such application. The State  
46 Board of Education may approve an application and grant the charter  
47 for the state charter school by a majority vote of the members of the

48 state board present and voting at a regular or special meeting of the  
 49 state board called for such purpose. The State Board of Education may  
 50 condition the opening of such school on the school's meeting certain  
 51 conditions determined by the Commissioner of Education to be  
 52 necessary and may authorize the commissioner to release the charter  
 53 when the commissioner determines such conditions are met. Charters  
 54 shall be granted initially for a period of time of up to five years and  
 55 may allow the applicant to delay its opening for a period of up to one  
 56 school year in order for the applicant to fully prepare to provide  
 57 appropriate instructional services.

58 (g) Charters may be renewed, upon application, in accordance with  
 59 the provisions of this section for the granting of such charters. Upon  
 60 application for such renewal, the State Board of Education may  
 61 commission an independent appraisal of the performance of the  
 62 charter school that includes, but is not limited to, an evaluation of the  
 63 school's compliance with the provisions of this section. The State Board  
 64 of Education shall consider the results of any such appraisal in  
 65 determining whether to renew such charter. Charters may be renewed  
 66 for a period of time up to ten years, depending upon the results of any  
 67 such appraisal. The State Board of Education may deny an application  
 68 for the renewal of a charter if (1) student progress has not been  
 69 sufficiently demonstrated, as determined by the commissioner, (2) the  
 70 governing council has not been sufficiently responsible for the  
 71 operation of the school or has misused or spent public funds in a  
 72 manner that is detrimental to the educational interests of the students  
 73 attending the charter school, or (3) the school has not been in  
 74 compliance with applicable laws and regulations. If the State Board of  
 75 Education does not renew a charter, it shall notify the governing  
 76 council of the charter school of the reasons for such nonrenewal.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	from passage	10-66bb(e) to (g)

**ED**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

***Explanation***

The bill only changes the length of charters and their renewals and not the actual number of charters therefore there is no fiscal impact upon the state.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

sHB 6681

**AN ACT CONCERNING CHARTER RENEWAL IN CHARTER SCHOOLS****SUMMARY:**

This bill allows the State Board of Education (SBE) to renew charters for charter schools for a maximum of 10, instead of for a maximum of five, years. The maximum five-year term for an initial charter remains the same.

When it receives a charter school's application for charter renewal, the law allows SBE to commission an independent appraisal of the school's performance and its compliance with the state's charter school law. SBE must consider the results of the appraisal in deciding whether to renew the charter. The bill also requires SBE to consider the appraisal results when determining the length of the renewal term.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**BACKGROUND*****Charter Schools***

Charter schools are public schools established under SBE-issued charters (authorizations). They operate independently of local and regional school boards. Charter schools must be nonsectarian and organized as nonprofit corporations. They are state-funded and open to all students unless their charters limit the geographic area from which students may attend. There are currently 14 charter schools operating in Connecticut.

The purpose of the charter schools is to (1) improve academic achievement; (2) provide for educational innovation; (3) reduce racial, ethnic, and economic isolation; and (4) give parents and students a choice of public educational programs.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

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Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute  
Yea 22    Nay 0