



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1408

January Session, 2007

* _____SB01408ED_APP032707_____*

AN ACT CONCERNING CHARTER SCHOOLS.

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 10-66ee of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2007*):

4 (c) (1) The state shall pay in accordance with this subsection, to the
5 fiscal authority for a state charter school for each student enrolled in
6 such school, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, seven thousand
7 six hundred twenty-five dollars, [for each student enrolled in such
8 school, and] for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, [and for each fiscal
9 year thereafter,] eight thousand dollars, [for each student enrolled in
10 such school] for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, eight thousand six
11 hundred fifty dollars, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, nine
12 thousand three hundred dollars. Such payments shall be made as
13 follows: Twenty-five per cent of the amount not later than July
14 fifteenth and September fifteenth based on estimated student
15 enrollment on May first, and twenty-five per cent of the amount not
16 later than January fifteenth and the remaining amount not later than
17 April fifteenth, each based on student enrollment on October first. If [,
18 for any fiscal year,] the total amount appropriated for grants pursuant
19 to this subdivision exceeds eight thousand six hundred fifty dollars per
20 student for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, and exceeds nine

21 thousand three hundred dollars for the fiscal year ending June 30,
22 2009, the amount of such grants payable per student shall be increased
23 proportionately, except that such per student increase shall not exceed
24 seventy dollars. Any amount of such appropriation remaining after
25 such per student increase [shall] may be used by the Department of
26 Education for supplemental grants to interdistrict magnet schools
27 pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of section 10-264/, or to
28 pay for a portion of the audit required pursuant to section 4 of this act.
29 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, such increase shall be limited
30 to one hundred ten dollars per student. (2) In the case of a student
31 identified as requiring special education, the school district in which
32 the student resides shall: (A) Hold the planning and placement team
33 meeting for such student and shall invite representatives from the
34 charter school to participate in such meeting; and (B) pay the state
35 charter school, on a quarterly basis, an amount equal to the difference
36 between the reasonable cost of educating such student and the sum of
37 the amount received by the state charter school for such student
38 pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection and amounts received
39 from other state, federal, local or private sources calculated on a per
40 pupil basis. Such school district shall be eligible for reimbursement
41 pursuant to section 10-76g. The charter school a student requiring
42 special education attends shall be responsible for ensuring that such
43 student receives the services mandated by the student's individualized
44 education program whether such services are provided by the charter
45 school or by the school district in which the student resides.

46 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 10-66bb of the general statutes is
47 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
48 *1, 2007*):

49 (d) Applications pursuant to this section shall include a description
50 of: (1) The mission, purpose and any specialized focus of the proposed
51 charter school; (2) the interest in the community for the establishment
52 of the charter school; (3) the school governance and procedures for the
53 establishment of a governing council that (A) includes (i) teachers and
54 parents and guardians of students enrolled in the school, and (ii) the

55 chairperson of the local or regional board of education of the town in
56 which the charter school is located and which has jurisdiction over a
57 school that resembles the approximate grade configuration of the
58 charter school, or the designee of such chairperson, and (B) is
59 responsible for the oversight of charter school operations, provided no
60 member or employee of the governing council may have a personal or
61 financial interest in the assets, real or personal, of the school; (4) the
62 financial plan for operation of the school, provided no application fees
63 or other fees for attendance, except as provided in this section, [10-
64 66ee,] may be charged; (5) the educational program, instructional
65 methodology and services to be offered to students; (6) the number
66 and qualifications of teachers and administrators to be employed in the
67 school; (7) the organization of the school in terms of the ages or grades
68 to be taught and the total estimated enrollment of the school; (8) the
69 student admission criteria and procedures to (A) ensure effective
70 public information, (B) ensure open access on a space available basis,
71 (C) promote a diverse student body, and (D) ensure that the school
72 complies with the provisions of section 10-15c and that it does not
73 discriminate on the basis of disability, athletic performance or
74 proficiency in the English language, provided the school may limit
75 enrollment to a particular grade level or specialized educational focus
76 and, if there is not space available for all students seeking enrollment,
77 the school may give preference to siblings but shall otherwise
78 determine enrollment by a lottery; (9) a means to assess student
79 performance that includes participation in state-wide mastery
80 examinations pursuant to chapter 163c; (10) procedures for teacher
81 evaluation and professional development for teachers and
82 administrators; (11) the provision of school facilities, pupil
83 transportation and student health and welfare services; (12)
84 procedures to encourage involvement by parents and guardians of
85 enrolled students in student learning, school activities and school
86 decision-making; (13) document efforts to increase the racial and
87 ethnic diversity of staff; and (14) a five-year plan to sustain the
88 maintenance and operation of the school. Subject to the provisions of
89 subsection (b) of section 10-66dd, an application may include, or a

90 charter school may file, requests to waive provisions of the general
91 statutes and regulations not required by sections 10-66aa to 10-66ff,
92 inclusive, and which are within the jurisdiction of the State Board of
93 Education.

94 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 10-66cc of the general statutes is
95 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
96 *1, 2007*):

97 (b) The governing council of each charter school shall submit
98 annually, to the Commissioner of Education, at such time and in such
99 manner as the commissioner prescribes, and, in the case of a local
100 charter school, to the local or regional board of education for the school
101 district in which the school is located, a report on the condition of the
102 school, including (1) the educational progress of students in the school,
103 (2) the financial condition of the school, including a certified audit
104 statement of all revenues from public and private sources and
105 expenditures, (3) accomplishment of the mission, purpose and any
106 specialized focus of the charter school, (4) the racial and ethnic
107 composition of the student body and efforts taken to increase the racial
108 and ethnic diversity of the student body, and (5) best practices
109 employed by the school that contribute significantly to the academic
110 success of students.

111 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The governing council of each
112 state charter school, as defined in subdivision (3) of section 10-66aa of
113 the general statutes, shall post on any Internet web site the council
114 operates (1) the schedule, (2) agenda, and (3) minutes of each meeting,
115 including any meeting of subcommittees of the governing council.

116 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) Annually, the commissioner
117 shall randomly select one state charter school, as defined in
118 subdivision (3) of section 10-66aa of the general statutes, to be subject
119 to a comprehensive financial audit conducted by an auditor selected
120 by the Commissioner of Education. Except as provided for in
121 subsection (c) of section 10-66ee of the general statutes, as amended by

122 this act, the charter school shall be responsible for all costs associated
123 with the audit conducted pursuant to the provisions of this section.

124 Sec. 6. Section 10-223e of the general statutes is amended by adding
125 subsection (c) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

126 (NEW) (c) In determining adequate yearly progress for a local or
127 regional school district, the Department of Education shall use the data
128 from each school under the jurisdiction of the local or regional board of
129 education for the district and the data from any state charter school, as
130 defined in subdivision (3) of section 10-66aa, located in the district
131 except any such charter school, which according to the school's charter,
132 was created primarily for the purpose of providing an alternative
133 educational environment for students who, prior to enrollment in such
134 charter school, had a record of attendance or behavioral problems that
135 was unacceptable at the school that the student was enrolled in prior to
136 enrollment in such charter school.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	10-66ee(c)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	10-66bb(d)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	10-66cc(b)
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	10-223e

ED

Joint Favorable Subst. C/R

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