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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sHB 5066**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING DESIGNATION OF A BARGAINING UNIT BY CHARTER SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS AND TEACHERS.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill reassigns certain steps in the process of recognizing teacher unions at state charter schools. It requires (1) state charter school teachers and other certified professional employees petitioning for union recognition to file the union petition with the State Board of Education (SBE) rather than the local board of education for the district where the school is located and (2) SBE to take specific actions after receiving the petition. It also makes a technical change.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014

#### **UNION RECOGNITION**

The bill requires state charter school teachers and other certified professional employees petitioning to have a union recognized by their employer to file the petition with the SBE rather than, as under current law, with the local or regional board of education.

It also reassigns certain tasks that are part of the recognition process to SBE. SBE must, within three school days of receiving the petition signed by a majority of teachers or other certified employees, (1) post a notice of the request for union representation on each bulletin board for teachers in every affected school or, if there are no bulletin boards, give a copy of the notice to each employee who may potentially be in the union and (2) mail a copy of the notice to the education commissioner and the charter school's governing council. Under current law, these actions are the duty of the local or regional board of education.

The recognition process includes a timeframe for a competing union to submit a petition to trigger an election for employees to choose the

official union representing them (i.e., a “representation election”). Under current law, the local board of education recognizes the union if no competing petition is filed. Under the bill, the charter school governing council must recognize the prospective charter school union if no competing union files a petition. By law, the charter school governing council, which oversees the school, acts as the board of education for purposes of collective bargaining.

Under the bill, if a competing union files a petition to trigger a representation election, the charter school governing council must not recognize the first petitioner as the union. The process then moves to the representation election.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Charter Schools***

Charter schools are nonsectarian, independent public schools that are granted a state charter by the SBE or a local charter by a local or regional board of education. Any person, for-profit or nonprofit entity, higher education institution, school board or boards, or regional educational service center, but not a private elementary or secondary school, can apply to operate a state or local charter school. Currently, there are no local charter schools in Connecticut.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 10      Nay 0      (03/18/2014)