

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 30
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/22/07
Committee Substitute #2 Favorable 7/30/07

Short Title: Study Performance of Charter Schools.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

January 30, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT CREATING THE LEGISLATIVE SPECIAL COMMISSION ON CHARTER
2 SCHOOLS.

3
4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** There is hereby created the Legislative Special Commission on
6 Charter Schools.

7 **SECTION 2.** The Commission shall consist of five members of the House of
8 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and five
9 members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. The
10 Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate one representative as cochair,
11 and the President Pro Tempore shall designate one senator as cochair. Vacancies on the
12 Commission shall be filled by the same appointing authority as made the initial
13 appointment.

14 The appointments shall be made and the Commission shall begin its work
15 prior to September 1, 2007.

16 **SECTION 3.** The Commission shall study issues related to the performance
17 of charter schools. In the course of the study, the Commission shall consider:

- 18 (1) The extent to which the system of charter schools operates, as required
19 by G.S. 115C-238.29A, to provide opportunities for teachers, parents,
20 pupils, and community members to establish and maintain schools that
21 operate independently of existing schools, as a method to accomplish
22 all of the following:
- 23 a. Improve student learning.
 - 24 b. Increase learning opportunities for all students, with special
25 emphasis on expanded learning experiences for students who
26 are identified as at risk of academic failure or academically
27 gifted.

- 1 c. Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching
2 methods.
- 3 d. Create new professional opportunities for teachers, including
4 the opportunities to be responsible for the learning program at
5 the school site.
- 6 e. Provide parents and students with expanded choices in the types
7 of educational opportunities that are available within the public
8 school system.
- 9 f. Hold the charter schools accountable for meeting measurable
10 student achievement results and provide the schools with a
11 method to change from rule-based to performance-based
12 accountability systems.
- 13 (2) Data on individual charter schools regarding the academic
14 performance of their students, the extent to which the schools meet
15 their obligations under their charters, and the fiscal performance of the
16 schools.
- 17 (3) The current cap on the number of charter schools and whether and to
18 what extent it is appropriate in light of the performance of the charter
19 school system and of individual charter schools.
- 20 (4) Any other matter that may be relevant.

21 The Commission may appoint advisory committees, as needed, to assist it in its work.

22 **SECTION 4.** The Commission, while in the discharge of its official duties,
23 may exercise all powers provided for under G.S. 120-19 and G.S. 120-19.1 through
24 G.S. 120-19.4. The Commission may meet at any time upon the joint call of the
25 cochairs. The Commission may meet in the Legislative Building or the Legislative
26 Office Building.

27 The Legislative Services Commission, through the Legislative Services
28 Officer, shall assign professional staff to assist the Commission in its work. The House
29 of Representatives' and the Senate's Directors of Legislative Assistants shall assign
30 clerical staff to the Commission, and the expenses relating to the clerical employees
31 shall be borne by the Commission. The Commission may contract for professional,
32 clerical, or consultant services as provided by G.S. 120-32.02. If the Commission hires a
33 consultant, the consultant shall not be a State employee or a person currently under
34 contract with the State to provide services.

35 All State departments and agencies and local governments and their
36 subdivisions shall furnish the Commission with any information in their possession or
37 available to them.

38 **SECTION 5.** The Commission shall report the results of its study and its
39 recommendations to the 2008 Regular Session of the 2007 General Assembly upon its
40 convening. The Commission shall terminate upon filing its final report or upon the
41 convening of the 2008 Regular Session of the 2007 General Assembly, whichever is
42 earlier.

1 **SECTION 6.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the General
2 Assembly the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal
3 year for the expenses of the Legislative Special Commission on Charter Schools.

4 **SECTION 7.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.