

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 778

Short Title: Charter School Changes. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Saine, Hardister, Bryan, and Brockman (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to: Education - K-12.

April 15, 2015

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.