



# HOUSE BILL 18: Planning Year for CIHSs

**This Bill Analysis  
reflects the contents  
of the bill as it was  
presented in  
committee.**

2015-2016 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Education - K-12, if favorable, Appropriations	<b>Date:</b>	February 24, 2015
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. S. Martin, Horn, Shepard, Hanes	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Denise Adams
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to First Edition H18-CSTB-1		Legislative Analyst

**SUMMARY:** *House Bill 18 would provide applicants seeking Cooperative Innovative High School (CIHS) status with the option to have a planning year prior to opening the CIHS. House Bill 18 would appropriate \$750,000 for the 2015-2016 fiscal year to be allocated for planning year funding in the amount of \$75,000 per approved CIHS. As introduced, HB 18 was a recommendation of the House Study Committee on Education Innovation.*

*The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) for HB 18 would make the following changes: (i) Remove the appropriation in Section 2, and renumber the remaining section accordingly, (ii) clarify the effective date applies to schools that submitted an application in the 2014-2015 school year and subsequent years, and (iii) make a conforming change to the long title.*

**CURRENT LAW:** Part 9 of Article 16 of Chapter 115C of the North Carolina General Statutes provides the process by which CIHSs are established.

Status as a CIHS is a two-part process. First, the SBE and the appropriate Board(s) of the institute of higher education (IHE) provide a programmatic review of applications and a Joint Advisory Committee makes a recommendation for which CIHSs should be approved. Applications should include (i) a statement of purpose, (ii) how the CIHS will relate to the Economic Vision Plan adopted for the economic development region in which the CIHS is to be located, (iii) a description of student academic and vocational achievement goals, (iv) how the CIHS will be operated, and (v) the process by which students will be selected and admitted. Applications should also include a description of the funds that will be used and a proposed budget for the first five years of the implementation of the CIHS. This description should identify how the average daily membership (ADM) and full-time equivalent (FTE) students are counted. If additional funds are requested, applications must include how those funds will be used. Additional funds may include the CIHS allotment and tuition payments.

Secondly, action from the General Assembly may be required, depending whether the CIHS applicant requests additional funds from the State. For applicants who have not requested additional funds, the SBE and the Board(s) of the partnering IHE may award final approval by June 30 of each year, and those schools can open without further action from the General Assembly. For applicants who have requested additional funds, the SBE and the appropriate Board(s) of the IHE may approve a CIHS contingent upon appropriation of the additional funds by the General Assembly. Contingent approvals are made by April 1 of each year. Applicants requesting additional funds may not open prior to the appropriation by the General Assembly of the full amount requested in the application.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** The PCS for HB 18 provides a CIHS the option to have a planning year prior to opening the school. For applicants that do not request additional funds and are approved, the school



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would have the option of opening at the beginning of the school year following approval or after a planning year. For applicants that do request additional funds, the SBE and the Board(s) of the partnering IHE may approve a CIHS contingent upon appropriation of additional funds or funding for a planning year. A CIHS that is appropriated planning year funding must open after a planning year.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The PCS for HB 18 would become effective July 1, 2015, and applies to applications submitted for approval in the 2014-2015 school year and each subsequent school year.

**BACKGROUND:** Current law authorizes local boards of education to jointly establish with one or more local boards of trustees a cooperative innovative program for high school students that target students either (i) at risk of not graduating, (ii) with parents who did not continue education beyond high school, or (iii) who would benefit from accelerated academic instruction. A local board of trustees may be the trustees of a community college, constituent institution of UNC, or a private college located in North Carolina.

A CIHS is a high school approved by the State Board of Education (SBE) and the applicable governing Board of the partnering institution of higher education (IHE) that meets the following criteria:

1. It has no more than 100 students per grade level.
2. Partners with an IHE to enable students to concurrently obtain a high school diploma and begin or complete an associate degree program, master a certificate or vocational program, or earn up to two years of college credit within five years.
3. Located on the campus of the partner IHE, unless granted a waiver.

In the 2014-2015 application period, ten schools applied for a programmatic review and approval. In December of 2014, the SBE voted unanimously to approve eight of the ten CIHS applications, which are:

- The Academy at High Point (Guilford County Schools)
- The Academy at Smith (Guilford County Schools)
- The STEM Early College at NC A&T (Guilford County Schools)
- The Middle College at UNC Greensboro (Guilford County Schools)
- Pitt County Early College High School (Pitt County Schools)
- Vernon Malone College and Career Academy (Wake County Schools)
- Watauga Career Academy (Watauga Career Academy)
- Wilson Academy of Applied Technology (Wilson County Schools)