



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

HOUSE BILL 334: Charter School Extracurricular Activity Fees

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Education/Higher Education	Date:	July 22, 2015
Introduced by:	Reps. Jeter, Steinburg	Prepared by:	Drupti Chauhan and Kara McCraw
Analysis of:	PCS to Second Edition H334-CSTC-46		Committee Counsel

SUMMARY: House Bill 334 would require that charter school applications be evaluated based on content and substance and allow applicants to address the Charter School Advisory Board (Advisory Board) before final votes. It would also allow charter schools to establish fees for extracurricular activities that do not exceed the fees charged by a local school administrative unit in which 40% or more of the students enrolled in the charter school reside.

The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) for HB 334 would replace the contents of the bill with provisions to establish the Office of Charter Schools under the State Board of Education (SBE), modify the Advisory Board, and specify the duties of the chair of the Advisory Board.

CURRENT LAW: The Advisory Board is located within the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) as is the Office of Charter Schools. The Governor appoints the chair of the Advisory Board.

Duties of the Advisory Board include making recommendations to the SBE on the adoption of rules regarding all aspects of charter school operations; reviewing and making recommendations to the SBE on the final approval of charter applications; and making recommendations to the SBE on actions regarding charter schools, including renewals, nonrenewals, and revocations.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 1.(a) would establish that the Advisory Board would be located administratively under the SBE. The Chair of the SBE would appoint a member of the SBE to serve as a nonvoting member of the Advisory Board. The Governor would still appoint 3 members but would no longer appoint the chair of the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board would annually elect the chair from its membership.

The chair of the Advisory Board or the chair's designee must advocate for the recommendations of the Advisory Board at the meetings of the SBE upon the request of the SBE.

The Office of Charter Schools would be statutorily created and placed in the Office of the SBE. The executive director would be appointed by the SBE. The Office of Charter Schools would have the following powers and duties:

- Serve as staff to the Advisory Board and fulfill duties assigned by the Advisory Board.
- Provide technical assistance and guidance to charter schools and nonprofit corporations seeking to operate charter schools.
- Provide for training for charter schools that have received preliminary approval from the SBE.
- Assist approved charter schools and charter schools seeking approval from the SBE in coordinating services with DPI.

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House Bill 334

Page 2

Section 1.(b) would dissolve the Office of Charter Schools within DPI and transfer the duties and functions of that office to the Office of Charter Schools located in the Office of the SBE.

Section 1.(c) would require the SBE to appoint an executive director of the Office of Charter Schools within 90 days of the bill becoming law. The initial appointment would be upon the recommendation of a search committee comprised of the Lieutenant Governor, who will serve as chair of the committee, the Vice Chair of the SBE, and one other member of the SBE appointed by the SBE.

Section 2 would require DPI to transfer to the Office of the SBE \$928,028 for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 fiscal years for the transfer and administration of duties and responsibilities of the Office of Charter Schools.

Section 3 would correct an incorrect statutory reference.

Section 4 provides that the Chair of the SBE must make the appointment of a nonvoting member to the Advisory Board within 45 days of the act becoming law. The Advisory Board must elect a chair also within 45 days of the date this act becomes law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill would become effective when it becomes law.