



SENATE BILL 400: School Access for Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:

Introduced by:

Analysis of: S.L. 2015-249

Date:

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SUMMARY: *S.L. 2015-249 directs local boards of education to give priority access in the use of school facilities outside of instructional time to youth groups identified under federal law as a patriotic society, such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and requires reasons for denial of priority access to be given in writing. Charter schools and regional schools are also encouraged to facilitate access for those identified youth groups.*

This act became effective September 25, 2015.

BILL ANALYSIS: Under the Community Schools Act, greater community involvement in the public schools is encouraged along with greater use of public school facilities. The State Board of Education (SBE) adopts policies and guidelines based on the recommendations of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to encourage increased community involvement in the public schools and the use of public school facilities. Local boards must then develop programs and plans for increased community use of the facilities.

S.L. 2015-249 directs local boards of education to give priority in the use of school facilities to any youth group listed in Title 36 of the United State Code as a patriotic society, such as the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of America, in order to encourage schools to facilitate access for students to participate in activities provided by these groups for the purposes of encouraging civic education at times other than instructional time during the school day. If the local board denies priority access to such groups, the local board must provide reasons for the denial in writing to the requesting entity.

Sections 3 and 4 of the act encourages charter schools and regional schools to facilitate access for students to participate in activities provided by any youth group listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society, such as the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of America, for the purposes of encouraging civic education. Student participation in these activities cannot interfere with instructional time during the school day.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act became effective September 25, 2015.

**This bill summary was substantially contributed to by Drupti Chauhan, Committee Counsel.*

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