



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

SENATE BILL 456: Modifications to Opportunity Scholarships

2015-2016 General Assembly

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| Committee: | House Appropriations | Date: | September 29, 2015 |
| Introduced by: | Sen. Tillman | Prepared by: | Drupti Chauhan Committee Counsel |
| Analysis of: | PCS to Third Edition S456-PCS15282-RQ-28 | | |

SUMMARY: *The Proposed Committee Substitute removes the provisions of SB 456 concerning charter schools and instead would increase the percentage of funds for scholarship grants that can be used to award the grants to children entering kindergarten or first grade.*

CURRENT LAW: Scholarship grants that can be used for students to attend nonpublic schools are awarded according to the following criteria:

- First priority is given to students who received a scholarship grant during the previous school year if those students have applied by March 1.
- The remaining funds are awarded as follows:
 - 50% of the remaining funds are for students residing in households with an income level not in excess of the amount required for the student to qualify for the federal free or reduced-price lunch program.
 - No more than 35% of the remaining funds can be used to award scholarship grants to students entering kindergarten or first grade.
 - Any remaining funds must be used to award scholarship grants to all other students.

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS for SB 456 would increase the percentage of funds that can be used to award scholarship grants to students entering kindergarten or first grade to 45%.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill would be effective July 1, 2015 and apply beginning with the 2015-2016 school year.

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