



HOUSE BILL 514: Permit Municipal Charter School/Certain Towns.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	House Education - K-12. If favorable, re-refer to State and Local Government II	Date:	April 24, 2017
Introduced by:	Rep. Brawley	Prepared by:	Kara McCraw
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: *HB 514 would authorize the Towns of Matthews and Mint Hill to apply to open charter schools and grant priority enrollment to students domiciled in those towns in those charter schools, and to use property tax revenue to support the charter schools operated by the towns.*

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 115C-218.15(b) requires that charter schools be operated by private tax-exempt nonprofit corporations.

G.S.115C-218.45 provides that any child qualified for admission to a public school in the State is qualified for admission to a charter school, and that any student who submits a timely application to a charter school must be enrolled if there is space available. If applications exceed space available, the charter school must conduct a lottery. Charters are allowed to give preference in enrollment to students in certain circumstances, including enrollment of siblings, children of teachers or board members (capped at 15%), and students previously enrolled in charter schools under various circumstances.

G.S. 160A-209 provides the purposes for which municipalities may levy property taxes. Support of schools is not a current purpose.

BILL ANALYSIS: The 2nd Edition for HB 514 would authorize the Towns of Matthews and Mint Hill to apply for and hold a charter for a charter school. The governing boards of the towns could serve as the board of directors for the school, or could appoint a board of directors to govern the school.

Employees of a charter school of the towns would be employees of that municipality and would be eligible for any employee benefits, including retirement benefits and health benefits, provided to other employees of that municipality.

Students domiciled in the municipality could be given preferential enrollment over other applicants.

The towns would be authorized to use property taxes in support of charter schools operated by the towns.

EFFECTIVE DATE: HB 514 would become effective when it becomes law and would apply to applications to establish a charter school submitted on or after that date.

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