



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

HOUSE BILL 644: Charter School Transportation Grant Program.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	House Transportation	Date:	May 16, 2017
Introduced by:	Reps. Hardister, Brockman, Torbett, Conrad	Prepared by:	Howard Marsilio Committee Counsel
Analysis of:	First Edition		

OVERVIEW: House Bill 644 would create a Charter School Transportation Grant Program that would allow for a charter school, meeting specific eligibility requirements, to apply for a reimbursement grant for 65% of its transportation costs through the Department of Public Instruction.

CURRENT LAW: Charter schools may provide transportation for its students, including by contracting with a local school administrative unit for transportation.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 would:

- Require the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to establish the Charter School Transportation Grant Program.
- Require that charter schools have over half of its enrolled student's households meet the federal free or reduced-price lunch program criteria, in a semester, to be eligible for the grant.
- Require DPI to establish criteria and guidelines for the grant application process by August 1 of each year.
- Require DPI to accept applications until December 31 for the fall semester, and until June 30 for the spring semester, for eligible student transportation costs. DPI shall award funds by January 15 and June 30, for the fall and spring semester awards respectively. If the appropriation is insufficient, the Department may use other funds within State Public School Fund for this purpose.
- Require DPI to report annually to the Fiscal Research Division and the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the administration of the program.

Section 2 would appropriate \$2.5 million from the General Fund to DPI in recurring funds for the 2017-2018 fiscal year to fund this grant program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective July 1, 2017.

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