



HOUSE BILL 800: Various Changes to Charter School Laws.

2017-2018 General Assembly

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

OVERVIEW: *HB 800 would make the following changes to laws related to charter schools:*

- *Part I: Allow priority enrollment for children of employees of charter partners of up to 50% of the school. Charter partners would provide capital or technology assistance to the charter school.*
- *Part II: Allow teachers to be employed by an education management organization, rather than directly by the charter board of directors.*
- *Part IV: Modify the timeline for decisions in charter fast-track replication applications.*

CURRENT LAW AND BILL ANALYSIS:

PART I:

Current Law: 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.

Bill Analysis: HB 800 would allow a charter school to give preferential enrollment, capped at 50%, for children of permanent employees of a charter partner.

A charter partner would be a corporation, partnership, or nonprofit organized under Chapters 55, 55A, 55B, 57D, or 59 of the General Statutes that, acting individually or as part of a consortium of corporations, donated one or more of the following to the charter school:

- Land on which the school is built.
- The school building or space the school occupies. If a lease, the lease must be at no cost to the school and for the duration of the charter to provide enrollment priority.
- Major renovations to the school building.
- Other capital improvements, including major investments in technology.

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For each year the enrollment priority is provided, the charter partner and charter school must enter into a memorandum of understanding that specifying the duration of the priority and the methods by which the charter partner shall support the charter school.

Information on the charter partner would be included in the initial charter applications, and adding a charter partner would be a material revision of the charter subject to State Board of Education approval. Students enrolled in the charter at the time of the material revision could not be displaced by the enrollment priority. Persons affiliated with the charter partner could be members of, but not the majority of a charter board of directors.

PART II:

Current Law: G.S. 115C-218.90 requires the charter school's board of directors to employ and contract with teachers for the charter schools.

Bill Analysis: HB 800 would allow a charter school's board of directors to also contract with an education management organization or charter management organization to provide teachers for the school.

PART IV:

Current Law: S.L. 2016-79 requires State Board of Education rules for the fast track replication process for charters provide that decisions by the State Board of Education on whether to grant a charter through the replication process be completed no later than October 15 of the year immediately preceding the year of the proposed school opening.

Bill Analysis: HB 800 would require the rules to provide that decisions be completed in less than 90 days from the application submission date for fast track replications.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Except as otherwise provided, HB 800 would become effective when it becomes law and would apply beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.