



HOUSE BILL 616: Charter Replication Act.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 27, 2021
Introduced by:	Rep. Torbett	Prepared by:	Drupti Chauhan
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: House Bill 616 would change the qualifications for fast-track replication of high-quality charter schools.

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 115C-218.3 directs the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt rules for fast-track replication of high-quality charter schools that are currently operating in the State. The SBE cannot require a planning year for applicants that are selected through this process. In addition to the standard requirements for charter applicants, the fast-track replication process must require the board of directors of the charter school that is applying for fast-track replication to demonstrate **one** of the following:

- The current charter school in the State governed by the board of directors has student academic outcomes that are comparable to the academic outcomes of the students in the local school administrative unit (LEA) in which the charter school is located and can provide 3 years of financially sound audits; **OR**
- Agreement by the board of directors to contract with an education management organizations or charter management organization that can demonstrate that it can replicate high-quality charter schools in the State that have proven student academic success and financial soundness.

The SBE must make decisions on whether to grant a charter through the fast-track replication process are completed in less than 120 days from the application submission date with a decision provided no later than October 15 of the year immediately preceding the year of the proposed school opening.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 616 would require the board of directors of a charter school that is applying for fast-track replication to demonstrate **one** of the following:

- The majority of charter schools in the State governed by the board of directors has student academic outcomes from the 3 prior school years that are equal to or greater than student academic outcomes in the LEA in which each charter school is located **and** the board of directors can provide 3 years of financially sound audits for each school it governs; **OR**
- Agreement by the board of directors to contract with an education management organizations or charter management organization that can show the majority of the charter schools in this State managed by the organization has student academic outcomes from the 3 school years that are equal to or greater than student academic outcomes in the LEA in which each charter is located **and** the organization can provide 3 years of financially sound audits for each school it governs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill is effective when it becomes law and applies to applications for fast-track replication of charter schools submitted on or after that date.

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