

HB 6: Increased Regulation Over Charter Schools

Enforcing a Double Standard

1. The law authorizes the Commissioner to set operational, financial and governing standards for charter schools (*authorization does not extend to traditional public schools*).
2. The law authorizes the Commissioner to approve the curriculum and instruction in charter schools (*traditional public schools are not required to obtain approval for curriculum and instruction*).
3. The law identifies who may and who may not serve as members of charter school boards (*membership is unregulated in traditional public schools*).
4. The law requires charter schools to specifically define and limit the authority of board members; the law specifically prohibits charter school boards from delegating established authorities (*traditional public schools are not subject to these governance requirements*).
5. The law requires legislators and school district boards to be notified whenever a charter school is created within their districts (*there is no notification requirement for the creation of new traditional public schools*).
6. The law requires charter schools to provide parents with written information regarding the qualifications of all professional employees (*traditional public schools are not required to notify parents of any qualifications of any staff*).
7. The law authorizes the Commissioner to shut down charter schools that "fail to protect the health, safety or welfare of students" (*no such authority exists over traditional public schools*).
8. The law requires charter schools to use a lottery system to determine admission (*traditional public schools are allowed to admit any students*).
9. The law limits where a charter school can obtain funds (*there is no limit on sources of funding for traditional public schools*).
10. The law authorizes the Commissioner to approve or disapprove a charter school's choice of a management firm (*the Commissioner has no authority over the management firms selected by traditional public schools*).
11. The law requires charter schools to use all funds according to the restrictions posed on local tax monies received by traditional public schools (*traditional public schools can use monies raised outside of local taxes for any purpose*).
12. The law requires charter schools to submit all banking information to the Commissioner (*traditional public schools are not required to furnish all banking documents*).