
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 414 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY SMUCKER, ARGALL, SCARNATI, WILLIAMS, EICHELBERGER,
FOLMER, SCHWANK, PILEGGI AND WOZNIAK, JUNE 25, 2014

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, JUNE 25, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 conduct a study of alternative methods of authorizing charter
3 schools and regional charter schools.

4 WHEREAS, Article XVII-A of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30,
5 No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
6 Pennsylvania's "Charter School Law"; and

7 WHEREAS, One of the goals of Article XVII-A of the Public
8 School Code is to ensure accountability for and the
9 establishment of high-performing, high-quality charter schools
10 and regional charter schools throughout this Commonwealth; and

11 WHEREAS, In order to further accomplish that goal,
12 alternative methods to authorize charter schools and regional
13 charter schools have been identified; and

14 WHEREAS, These alternative methods include higher education
15 authorizers, Statewide authorizers and multiple charter
16 organizations; therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
18 be directed to conduct a study relating to the practicability,

1 feasibility and cost effectiveness of alternative methods of
2 authorizing charter schools and regional charter schools; and be
3 it further

4 RESOLVED, That this study include:

5 (1) A detailed analysis of whether each of these
6 alternative methods would produce high-performing, high-
7 quality charter schools and regional charter schools, both in
8 this Commonwealth and in other states that already implement
9 these alternative methods.

10 (2) A review of the appropriate processes and procedures
11 needed to effectively implement these alternative methods in
12 this Commonwealth, including appropriate measures for
13 oversight and accountability.

14 (3) The impact these alternative methods would have on
15 the ability of local boards of school directors to
16 effectively authorize charter schools and regional charter
17 schools and potential solutions to minimize the impact.

18 (4) The development of a pilot program to allow
19 institutions of higher education that are domiciled and
20 headquartered with their principal physical location in this
21 Commonwealth to authorize charter schools and regional
22 charter schools in this Commonwealth.

23 (5) A review of the charter school authorizer laws in
24 operation throughout the United States.

25 (6) Cost impact and fiscal analysis of the development
26 and use of each of these alternative methods.

27 (7) Appropriate assessment of fees on charter school
28 entities for potentially funding a higher education
29 authorizer, including review of independent authorizer fees
30 and structures throughout the United States;

1 and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That in compiling this report the Legislative
3 Budget and Finance Committee seek input from the Department of
4 Education, the State Board of Education, charter school
5 operators, school district personnel, representatives of
6 institutions of higher education within this Commonwealth and
7 any other groups, organizations, associations or individuals who
8 may have information relevant to this study; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
10 report its findings and recommendations to the Senate no later
11 than November 30, 2014.