

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 553 - SB 1348

March 16, 2009

SUMMARY OF BILL: Permits students who do not qualify under current eligibility regardless of individual or school performance to be enrolled in a public charter school to fill any openings for the following academic year. Such students shall not exceed more than 10 percent of the charter school's total capacity. Current eligibility is based on schools' adequate yearly progress and student test scores with priority given to at risk students.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Other Fiscal Impact: More regular public school students not eligible under current guidelines may transfer into a public charter school. BEP money follows the student. Students not in the new category will still be eligible for charter school attendance. The total shift in funds from a local education agency to a public charter school is a reflection of the total number of slots available, capacity of the charter school, and the number of new charter schools that may open. The amount of such a shift for currently open slots is approximately \$409,120. Therefore, any shift in funds is estimated to exceed \$400,000.

Assumptions:

- There are currently 16 charter schools in Tennessee.
- Making more regular K-12 public school students eligible to attend charter schools will not increase the number of available slots in charter schools.
- Two charter schools in Davidson County have open slots. The combined number of slots is 40 students. Davidson County's per pupil expenditure in the 2007-08 school year was \$10,228. The total shift in funding from local education agencies to a public charter school if all currently open slots are filled is approximately \$409,120 (40 x \$10,228).
- Some charter schools will be expanding their grade capacity in the 2009-10 school year and several new schools will be opening. Any shift in funds is estimated to exceed \$400,000.

- Some spots may remain unfilled because the teaching regimen of the charter school may be effectively limiting their enrollment capacity below their stated physical space.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James W. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "W".

James W. White, Executive Director

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