

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 7901

As of February 26, 1998

Title: An act relating to charter schools.

Brief Description: Authorizing charter schools (Introduced with House sponsors).

Sponsors: Senators Johnson and Oke.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Ways & Means: 4/14/97; 2/26/98.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Staff: Bill Freund (786-7441)

Background: Generally, charter schools are public schools that operate independently of most state laws and regulations. Since 1991, 29 states have passed legislation authorizing such independent public schools: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Summary of Bill: The intent clause states that the Legislature intends to authorize the establishment of charter schools to provide a unique setting for learning and additional public school choices.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.