

HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

Date: April 29, 1998
Bill Subject: Charter Schools
Prepared By: Senate Committee on Education

I. Amendments Contained in Message

House Amendment 1 -- (body)
House Amendment 2 -- (body)
House Amendment 3 -- (body with title)

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message

House Amendment 1 provides that the majority of parents with children in a school contemplating conversion to a charter school vote on the conversion question. Conversion elections would be according to procedures established in State Board of Education rules.

House Amendment 2 revises the dispute resolution procedure to require the Department of Education to provide mediation services on charter school disputes. If the Commissioner of Education determines the dispute can't be resolved at this level, the situation may be appealed to an administrative law judge. The costs of the administrative hearing are to be borne by the losing party.

House Amendment 3 deletes the requirement that contracts between charter schools and their sponsors contain a lien provision that would allow the sponsor to recover capital outlay funds used for major repairs, renovations, and remodeling in the event the charter school terminates operation.

Provides that if a school district shares its capital outlay funding with a charter school, the amount of the charter school's allocation from the Charter School Capital Outlay fund would be reduced by a like amount.

Rather than listing allowable expenditures for Charter School Capital Outlay funds the amendment would reference the lawful capital outlay expenditures contained in ss. 235.435 and 236.25, F.S. The effective date is changed to when the act becomes a law. The House did not create a trust fund for the Charter School Capital Outlay appropriation. Therefore, the effective date of this act would not be contingent upon the passage of a trust fund bill.