

# SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: SJR 1008

SPONSOR: Senator Kirkpatrick

SUBJECT: Public Charter Schools

DATE: March 16, 2000

REVISED: 3/20/2000 \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Harkey</u>	<u>O'Farrell</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>Favorable/1 amend.</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>GO</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	<u>RC</u>	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

**I. Summary:**

This joint resolution would place on the ballot a proposed amendment to section 4, Article IX of the State Constitution to permit universities, community colleges, the State Board of Education, or any public entity to sponsor, operate, control, and supervise public charter schools in any school district.

This Joint Resolution amends section 4, Article IX of the State Constitution.

**II. Present Situation:**

Section 4 of Article IX of the State Constitution establishes each county as a school district and provides that two or more school districts may be combined into one school district if approved by vote of the electors of each county. Each of Florida's 67 counties is a school district. No districts have exercised the option of combining.

The constitution requires each school district to have a board composed of five or more members chosen by vote of the electors. The board must "operate, control, and supervise all free public schools within the school district" and determine the rate of school district taxes.

With the exception of state universities which can sponsor the conversion of a developmental research school to a charter school, district school boards are the sole sponsor for charter schools under s. 228.056, F.S. Twelve states and the District of Columbia provide more than one sponsoring authority for charter schools. In addition to local school boards, other authorities that grant charters include a state board of education, a state charter school board, and an institution of higher education.

Florida's charter school law, s. 228.056, F.S., requires the DOE to convene a Charter School Review Panel to examine issues, practices, and policies relating to charter schools. The review panel issued a report in January 2000, containing 17 recommendations. One of the

recommendations was to place on the ballot an amendment to Article IX, section 4 of the State Constitution to authorize multiple sponsors for charter schools. The panel recommended this change as a way to allow the creation of charter schools in locations where a district school board has been reluctant or resistant to approving charter applicants.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

This joint resolution would place on the ballot a proposed amendment to section 4, Article IX of the State Constitution to permit universities, community colleges, the State Board of Education, or any public entity to sponsor, operate, control, and supervise public charter schools in any school district.

### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

#### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

#### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

#### **C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

#### **D. Other Constitutional Issues:**

Section 1, Article XI of the State Constitution requires a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature for passage of this joint resolution.

### **V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**

#### **A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

#### **B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

#### **C. Government Sector Impact:**

Each constitutional amendment is required to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in each county, once in the sixth week and once in the tenth week preceding the

general election. Costs for advertising vary depending on the length of the amendment; however, it is estimated that the cost per amendment averages about \$46,000.

Charter schools receive operating funds through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) and are eligible for facilities funding as provided under s. 228.0561, F.S. There would be no additional cost for charter schools if there were multiple sponsoring authorities.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Amendments:**

# 1 by Education Committee

Deletes the general authority for “any public entity” to sponsor charter schools.

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This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.

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