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DELAWARE STATE SENATE
147th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE BILL NO. 147

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14, CHAPTER 5 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO REPORTING AND
OVERSIGHT, INNOVATION, AND COLLABORATION OF CHARTER SCHOOLS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

1 Section 1. Amend § 513, Title 14 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underlining and deletions
2 as shown by strike through as follows:

3 § 513. Reporting and oversight.

4 (a) On or before November 1, each charter school shall produce an annual report for the school year ending the
5 previous June, which shall: (1) discuss the school's progress in meeting overall student performance goals and standards;
6 (2) discuss the innovation occurring at the charter school, including but not limited to the areas of curriculum development,
7 instruction, student culture and discipline, community and parental involvement, teacher and staff development, school
8 operations and management, and extracurricular and after-school programming; and (3) contain a financial statement
9 setting forth by appropriate categories the school's revenues and expenditures and assets and liabilities. To ensure that such
10 reports provide parents and approving authorities with clear and comparable information about the performance of charter
11 schools, the Department of Education shall prescribe a uniform format for such reports, which may be supplemented by
12 requirements set by the approving authority for schools it has chartered. The charter school shall contract to have an audit
13 of the business and financial transactions, records, and accounts after July 1 for the prior fiscal year. The results of the audit
14 shall be shared with the Department of Education. A charter school shall display on its website the annual report including
15 financial statement and audit required by this subsection.

16 Section 2. Amend § 514, Title 14 of the Delaware Code by making insertions as shown by underlining and deletions
17 as shown by strike through as follows:

18 § 514. State reports on the charter school program.

19 Annually, the Department shall prepare a report for the Governor and the General Assembly on the success or failure
20 of charter schools and propose changes in state law necessary to improve or change the charter school program. Such report

21 shall contain a section comparing the per student expenditures of charter schools, considering all sources of such
22 expenditures, with those of other public schools. Such report shall also contain: (1) the Secretary of Education's analysis of,
23 recommendations relating to, and proposed changes relating to Delaware education laws, in light of the content of annual
24 reports submitted pursuant to Section 513 of Title 14; and (2) the Secretary's assessment of specific opportunities and
25 barriers relating to the implementation of charters schools' innovations in the broader Delaware public education school
26 system.

27 Section 3. The Task Force for Promoting Charter-District Collaboration (hereinafter “Task Force”) is hereby
28 established to consider the current state of collaboration between public charter schools and traditional public schools and
29 to develop recommendations for strengthening such collaboration. At a minimum, the recommendations will include:

30 1. Development of an ongoing, sustainable mechanism for sharing effective practices between public charter schools
31 and traditional public schools; and

32 2. Development of requirements for documenting and sharing effective practices for any recipients of the Charter
33 Performance Fund.

34 The Task Force shall be composed of the following members, who shall be appointed by the appointing authority:

35 1. A representative of the Delaware Department of Education, appointed by the Secretary of the Department of
36 Education, who shall act as chairperson of the Committee;

37 2. Two representatives of the Delaware State Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the State Senate;

38 3. Two representatives of the Delaware State House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of
39 Representatives;

40 4. Three representatives of the Delaware Association of School Administrators, one from each county, appointed by
41 the president of the Delaware Association of School Administrators;

42 5. Three representatives of the Chief School Officers Association, one from each county, appointed by the president of
43 the Chief School Officers Association;

44 6. Three representatives of public charter schools, one from each county, appointed by the president of the Charter
45 Schools Network;

46 7. Two teachers appointed by the president of the Delaware State Education Association;

47 8. Two experts in promoting the sharing of effective practices across schools, appointed by the Secretary of the
48 Delaware Department of Education;

49 9. A representative of the Delaware State Board of Education, appointed by the President of the Delaware State Board
50 of Education;

51 10. A representative of the Delaware School Boards Association, appointed by the president of the Delaware School
52 Boards Association;

53 11. A representative of the Charter Schools Network appointed by the president of the Charter Schools Network;

54 12. A representative from the Delaware Business Roundtable appointed by the chair of the Delaware Business
55 Roundtable Education Committee; and

56 13. A representative from the Office of the Governor appointed by the Governor.

57 The Committee shall present a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Speaker of the
58 House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate by January 31, 2014. The Task Force shall cease
59 to exist on January 31, 2014, absent further action by the General Assembly.

60 Section 4. The Act shall become effective on July 1, 2013.

SYNOPSIS

This bill encourages the sharing of best practices by requiring that charter schools include innovation information in their annual reports and that the Secretary of Education report on how successes at charter schools can be implemented throughout Delaware's public education system. It further establishes a "Committee for Promoting Charter-District Collaboration" to consider the current state of collaboration between public charter schools and traditional public schools and to develop recommendations for strengthening such collaboration.

Author: Senator Townsend