



SPONSOR: Rep. Potter & Sen. Henry
Reps. Baumbach, Bennett, Bolden, Jaques, Keeley, J.
Johnson, Kowalko, B. Short, K. Williams; Sen. Poore

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
148th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE BILL NO. 56

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS.

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

1 Section 1. Amend § 511(c), Title 14 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strike through and
2 insertions shown by underline as follows:

3 (c) Charter school applications shall be submitted to a local school board or the Department for approval as an
4 approving authority. Whenever a charter school seeks a charter from the Department as approving authority, such approval
5 shall require the assent of both the Secretary and the State Board, as shall any action pursuant to §§ 515 and 516 of this
6 title. The approving authority shall be responsible for approval of the charter school pursuant to this section and for
7 continuing oversight of each charter school it approves. In addition, for a charter school within the City of Wilmington,
8 prior to the approving authority giving its approval, the application must be forwarded to the Mayor and City Council of the
9 City of Wilmington for review and comment with regard to impact on the City of Wilmington. Also, if the Department is
10 the approving authority for a charter school application within the City of Wilmington, the application must also first
11 receive approval from the local school board in which the charter school would be located.

12 Section 2. There shall be a moratorium on all new charter schools opening until June 30, 2018 or until the State
13 Board of Education develops a strategic plan for the number of charter, district, and vocational-technical schools in the
14 State, whichever occurs first. The aforementioned strategic plan shall be based on a systematic evaluation of educational
15 needs using national models and best practices that align with the public education system, such as the National Association
16 of Charter School Authorizers guidelines.

SYNOPSIS

This bill provides a moratorium on all new charter schools in Delaware until June 30, 2018 or until the State Board of Education develops a strategic plan for the number of charter, district, and vocational-technical schools in the State. Also, the bill requires review and comment from Wilmington's Mayor and City Council before either a local school district or the Department of Education approves a charter in the City of Wilmington. Lastly, the bill requires the local school board's approval for a charter school in the City of Wilmington before the Department of Education can approve the charter school.