

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2013-002

REQUESTING THE INTERIM HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE BEST PRACTICES FROM PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS IN THE STATE AND IN THE NATION THAT MAY BE IMPLEMENTED IN ARKANSAS SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE STATE'S SYSTEM OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT LEVELS.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly enacted the Arkansas Charter Schools Act of 1999 to provide educational environments that:

- (1) Improve student learning;
- (2) Increase learning opportunities for all students, with special emphasis on expanded learning experiences for students who are identified as low-achieving;
- (3) Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods;
- (4) Create new professional opportunities for teachers, including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning program at the school site; and
- (5) Provide parents and pupils with expanded choices in the types of educational opportunities that are available within the public school system; and

WHEREAS, in the twenty (20) years since the charter school movement began nationally, researchers have analyzed the successes and failures of charter schools; and

WHEREAS, that national and state research should be applied to a study of possible improvements to the non-charter public school system in Arkansas,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT PROPOSED BY THE INTERIM HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Interim House Committee On Education conduct a study of the best practices from public charter schools in the state and in the nation that may be implemented in Arkansas school districts to improve the efficiency of the state's system of public education and student achievement levels.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the study shall review and provide recommendations for the application of the successful strategies of charter schools to non-charter public schools for:

- (1) Improving student learning for all students;

1 (2) Increasing learning opportunities for all students through expanded learning
2 experiences for students who are identified as low-achieving;

3 (3) Using different and innovative teaching methods;

4 (4) Creating new professional opportunities for teachers, including the opportunity to be
5 responsible for the learning program at the school site;

6 (5) Providing parents and pupils with expanded choices in the types of educational
7 opportunities; and

8 (6)(A) Increasing parental engagement in and responsibility for the education of their
9 children in public schools.

10 (B) The study of parental engagement strategies at charter schools shall
11 compare those strategies with the implementation of the state's current laws governing parental
12 involvement in non-charter public schools.

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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the study shall be conducted with the assistance of the
15 Department of Education and public charter schools.

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT by July 1, 2014, the study shall be completed and a report
18 presented to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education with findings
19 and recommendations from the study.

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21 Respectfully submitted,

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23 Representative Charles L. Armstrong

24 District 30

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26 By: CLR/CLR
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