

1 State of Arkansas
2 88th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2011
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 346

5 By: Senators G. Baker, Burnett
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO REMOVE THE LIMITATION ON THE NUMBER OF
9 OPEN-ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOLS; TO DECLARE AN
10 EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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14 TO REMOVE THE LIMITATION ON THE NUMBER OF
15 OPEN-ENROLLMENT CHARTER SCHOOLS AND TO
16 DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-23-304(c)(1), concerning requirements for
22 open-enrollment charter schools, is amended to read as follows:

23 (c)(1)(A) The Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, the state
24 board may grant no more than a total of twenty-four (24) charters for open-
25 enrollment public charter schools except as provided under subdivision
26 (c)(1)(B) of this section.

27 (B) If the cap on the number of charters available for an
28 open-enrollment public charter school is within two (2) charters of meeting
29 the limitation set under subdivision (c)(1)(A) of this section, the number of
30 available charters shall automatically increase by five (5) slots.

31 (C) By March 1 each year, the department shall issue a
32 commissioner's memo stating the existing limitation on the number of charters
33 available for open-enrollment public charter schools and the number of
34 charters available for open-enrollment public charter schools during the next
35 application cycle.
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1 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
2 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the current limitation on the
3 number of open-enrollment public charter schools that may be granted by the
4 State Board of Education is a disadvantage to our state; that the open-
5 enrollment public charter limitation reduces and restricts the quality of
6 educational choice and opportunity for students and families; and that this
7 act is immediately necessary to promote quality educational opportunities for
8 Arkansas students. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act
9 being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health,
10 and safety shall become effective on:

11 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

12 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
13 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
14 bill; or

15 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
16 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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