

March 26, 2009

H 856. MODIFY CHARTER SCHOOL LAW. Filed 3/26/09. *TO RAISE THE CAP ON THE NUMBER OF CHARTER SCHOOLS AND TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON CHARTER SCHOOLS.*

Amends GS 115C-238.29D(b) to raise the statewide cap on charter schools from 100 to 106 and to add a provision requiring the State Board to prioritize applications for schools that will be located within local school administrative units without charter schools. Enacts GS 115C-238.29C(a1) requiring the chartering entity to continuously evaluate its process for reviewing applications to identify characteristics that are predictive of later success of charter schools. Amends GS 115C-238.29G(a) to provide that failure to meet the standards for academic growth and academic performance developed by the State Board of Education in accordance with GS 115C-238.29G(a1) constitutes grounds for termination or not renewing a charter. Enacts GS 115C-238.29G(a1) requiring the State Board of Education to develop a diagnostic process of oversight to enable a timely response to inadequate school performance. A school that demonstrates low growth in student performance and low student performance shall be reviewed. By the end of the second year of operation, the minimum standard for academic growth for a charter school shall be a year's growth in individual student performance in a school year. If the State Board of Education finds that a charter school has failed to meet its projected levels of improvement in student performance or had low levels of student performance for two consecutive years, the Board may terminate or fail to renew that charter. Amends GS 115C-238.29F(g) pertaining to admission requirements. Effective July 1, 2009.

Intro. by Lucas, Bell, Yongue, Wiley.

GS 115C

April 14, 2009

H 856. MODIFY CHARTER SCHOOL LAW. Filed 3/26/09. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Amends GS 115C-238.29F(g)(5) to clarify that the charter school must make an effort *each year* in *good faith* to ensure that the applicant pool for admission reflects the racial and ethnic composition of the general population residing in the unit in which the school is located or of the special population that the school seeks to serve residing within the unit in which the school is located. Makes technical changes.