



## The Charter School Advocate

Tuesday, March 27, 2018

### CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING

#### **CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING STUDY DOES NOT MAKE THE CUT for OLA STUDY**

On Friday, the Legislative Audit Commission choose the topics that the Office of Legislative Auditor (OLA) will do in 2018 in preparation for the 2019 session. While the study of Charter School Funding was a semifinalist – it was not chosen by Legislators as one of the five (5) topics that the OLA.

While we are disappointed that Charter School Funding Study did not make the cut as an OLA Report would have been extraordinarily important tool in informing legislators about charter school funding issues – **but all the effort is not over yet.**

Over the last month the Association has worked to get legislation introduced to allocate additional resources to the OLA to conduct the study, on the assumption that it might not make it through the Legislative Audit Commission process.

In the House two bills have been introduced to have the OLA do a charter school funding study. One bill **H.F. 3883** was introduced by **Rep. Slocum** (DFL) and the other **H.F. 3600** by **Rep. Loon**, Chair of the House Education Finance Committee (R).

Tomorrow, March 28th Rep. Loon will hear her bill in Committee.

In the Senate the companion bill S.F. 3315 to Rep. Loon's bill was introduced by Senator Eichorn (R). The companion bill to Rep. Slocum's bill will be introduced this week by Senator Abler (R).

**COMMENT:** *An OLA Report on Charter School Funding would be incredibly helpful in advancing discussion and legislation in the 2019 session. Without an OLA Report, the entire charter school community, especially school administrators and school boards, are going to have to step up to the plate as never before to inform, educate, and solicit the support of legislators if we want to make progress in achieving equitable funding – it is going to take a number of years – just because of the amount of money involved.*

## **H.F. 3529 – CHARTER SCHOOL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION**

This afternoon, Tuesday March 27th the House Education Finance Committee will hear **H.F. 3529** authored by **Rep. McDonald** (R) that would exempt charter schools who lease space from property taxes. There were similar bills in the House and Senate last session but neither of them passed.

## **H.F. 4115 – CHARTER SCHOOL FUNDING BILL**

A bill was introduced last week that would “**raise revenue for charter schools to approximate school district revenues**”. The bill was introduced by Rep. Linda Slocum (DFL), Rep. Roz Peterson (R), and Rep. David Bly (DFL).

While the bill **will not** be heard this session – the point of it being introduced this session is to raise the disparity in funding issue among legislators.

We appreciate the effort of these three legislators to raise the issue and their ongoing support for chartered public schools and public school choice.

**COMMENT:** *Gaining equitable funding for charter school students will not only take informing and educating legislators. It will also take addressing a number of funding streams which, because of the disparity in funding, will require patience, as it will most likely take a number of legislative sessions to secure the amount of money needed to create equity.*

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Executive Director