



Legislative Bulletin.....September 8, 2011

Contents:

H.R. 2218—Empowering Parents through Quality Charter Schools Act

Order of Business: H.R. 2218 is expected to be considered on Thursday, September 8, 2011 under a structured rule. The rule provides for one hour of general debate on H.R. 2218 equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. It waives all points of order against consideration of H.R. 2218. Additionally, the rule makes in order only those amendments to H.R. 2218 summarized below. The rule also provides for one motion to recommit H.R. 2218 with or without instructions.

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SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS MADE IN ORDER

Davis (D-CA) #12. This amendment would state that the purpose of H.R. 2218 is to “improve the United States education system and educational opportunities for all Americans by supporting innovation in public education in public school settings that prepare students to compete and contribute to the global economy.” The amendment text can be [viewed here](#).

Holt (D-NJ) #8. This amendment would encourage the Secretary to give priority (when awarding grants) to states that encourage green school building practices and certification. The amendment text can be [viewed here](#).

King (R-IA) #9. This amendment would eliminate a subparagraph which is part of the definition of “high quality charter schools.” The subparagraph removed states that high quality charter schools means a school that “has demonstrated success in increasing student academic achievement for the subgroups of students described in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v)(II).” The amendment text can be [viewed here](#).

Kline (R-MN) & Miller (D-CA) #6. This manager’s amendment would make several technical corrections to the underlying legislation. The amendment text can be [viewed here](#). It would also clarify certain language included in the bill as reported out of Committee, and make additional policy changes to improve the Charter School Program. According to the Committee, the amendment:

- Adds a provision to ensure the state entity receiving a grant, and charter schools receiving subgrants, must solicit and consider input from parents and the community in opening and operating the schools.
- Adds a clause to ensure the Secretary awards grants in a manner that ensures a sufficient number of new grants to support high-quality charter schools can be awarded annually.
- Adds a priority in the grant application encouraging states to use charter schools to reach at-risk students, such as drop-outs.
- Removes the priority for online, hybrid or blended charter schools and adds a provision in the application to ensure the state entity is supporting a diversity of charter school models, including online, hybrid, or blended schools.
- Adds a provision in the description of the program for states to describe how they help charter schools consider the transportation needs of their prospective students.
- Clarifies the Secretary shall award charter school facilities grants to the highest quality applicants.
- Adds a priority in the grant application for states that allow charter schools to be their own school food authority, which makes participation in the National School Lunch Program easier for charter schools.

Lujan (D-NM) #11. On the grant application, this amendment would require that the school describe how they would share best practices between other charter and public schools on instruction and professional development in science, math, technology, and engineering studies. The amendment text can be [viewed here](#).

Moore, Gwen (D-WI) #2. This amendment would eliminate the Governor from the definition of a “state entity.” The amendment text can be [viewed here](#).

Paulsen (R-MN) & Polis (D-CO) #3. The underlying legislation prohibits applicants from receiving more than 1 subgrant during a 5-year period. This amendment would allow applicants to receive more than 1 subgrant during a 5-year period, if “the eligible applicant demonstrates to the state entity not less than 3 years of improved educational results in the areas described in subparagraphs (A) and (D) of section 5210(6) for students enrolled in such charter school.” The amendment text can be [viewed here](#).

Polis (D-CO) #5. This amendment would require that, when awarding the grants, the Secretary shall give priority to entities that are “located in a State that allows an entity other than a local educational agency to be an authorized public chartering agency, the

State has a quality authorized public chartering agency that is an entity other than a local educational agency.” The amendment text can be [viewed here](#).