

SENATE BILL No. 504

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 20-20-1; IC 20-42.5-2.

Synopsis: Programs and services for charter schools. Requires that educational service centers provide services to a participating charter school upon the request of the charter school. (This is in addition to current law that requires educational service centers to provide services to a participating school corporation upon request of the school corporation.) Allows charter schools individually, in collaboration with other school corporations, charter schools, or both school corporations and charter schools, and through the educational services centers, to undertake action to reduce noninstructional expenditures and allocate the resulting savings to student instruction and learning. Makes conforming changes to include charter schools in the actions that may be undertaken.

Effective: July 1, 2017.

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January 17, 2017, read first time and referred to Committee on Education and Career Development.



First Regular Session 120th General Assembly (2017)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2016 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 504

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 20-20-1-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.286-2013,
2 SECTION 16, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2017]: Sec. 2. (a) As used in this chapter, "educational service
4 center" means an extended agency of school corporations **and charter**
5 **schools** that:
6 (1) operates under rules established by the state board;
7 (2) is the administrative and operational unit that serves a
8 definitive geographical boundary, which, to the extent possible,
9 must be aligned with the boundary of a regional works council's
10 region established under IC 20-19-6; and
11 (3) allows school corporations **and charter schools** to voluntarily
12 cooperate and share programs and services that the school
13 corporations **and charter schools** cannot individually provide but
14 collectively may implement.
15 (b) Programs and services collectively implemented through an
16 educational service center may include, but are not limited to, the
17 following:



- 1 (1) Curriculum development.
- 2 (2) Pupil personnel and special education services.
- 3 (3) In-service education.
- 4 (4) State-federal liaison services.
- 5 (5) Instructional materials and multimedia services.
- 6 (6) Career and technical education.
- 7 (7) Purchasing and financial management.
- 8 (8) Needs assessment.
- 9 (9) Computer use.
- 10 (10) Research and development.

11 SECTION 2. IC 20-20-1-5, AS ADDED BY P.L.1-2005, SECTION
 12 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
 13 2017]: Sec. 5. An educational service center must be established under
 14 rules adopted by the state board to develop, provide, and make
 15 available to participating schools, **including participating charter**
 16 **schools**, those services requested by the participating school
 17 corporations **and participating charter schools** and approved by the
 18 state board.

19 SECTION 3. IC 20-20-1-6, AS ADDED BY P.L.1-2005, SECTION
 20 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
 21 2017]: Sec. 6. Educational service centers shall be located throughout
 22 Indiana to allow each school corporation **and charter school** to have
 23 an opportunity to:

- 24 (1) be served by; and
- 25 (2) participate in;

26 an approved center on a voluntary basis by resolution of the governing
 27 body **of the school corporation or by the approval of an organizer**
 28 **of a charter school.**

29 SECTION 4. IC 20-20-1-7, AS ADDED BY P.L.1-2005, SECTION
 30 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
 31 2017]: Sec. 7. An educational service center shall be governed in its
 32 local administration by a board selected by an assembly comprised of
 33 the:

- 34 (1) superintendent or the superintendent's designee from each
 35 participating school corporation; **and**
- 36 (2) **organizer of a charter school or the organizer's designee**
 37 **from each participating charter school.**

38 SECTION 5. IC 20-42.5-2-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.286-2013,
 39 SECTION 125, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 40 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017]: Sec. 1. A school corporation **and**
 41 **charter school** individually, in collaboration with other school
 42 corporations, **charter schools, or both school corporations and**



1 **charter schools**, and through the educational services centers may
 2 undertake action to reduce noninstructional expenditures and allocate
 3 the resulting savings to student instruction and learning. Actions taken
 4 under this section include the following:

5 (1) Pooling of resources with other school corporations, **charter**
 6 **schools, or both school corporations and charter schools** for
 7 liability insurance, property and casualty insurance, worker's
 8 compensation insurance, employee health insurance, vision
 9 insurance, dental insurance, or other insurance, whether by
 10 pooling risks for coverage or for the purchase of coverage, or by
 11 the creation of or participation in insurance trusts, subject to the
 12 following:

13 (A) School corporations **and charter schools** that elect to pool
 14 assets for coverage must create a trust under Indiana law for
 15 the assets. The trust is subject to regulation by the department
 16 of insurance as follows:

17 (i) The trust must be registered with the department of
 18 insurance.

19 (ii) The trust shall obtain stop loss insurance issued by an
 20 insurer authorized to do business in Indiana with an
 21 aggregate retention of not more than one hundred
 22 twenty-five percent (125%) of the amount of expected
 23 claims for the following year.

24 (iii) Contributions by the school corporations **and charter**
 25 **schools** must be set at one hundred percent (100%) of the
 26 aggregate retention plus all other costs of the trust.

27 (iv) The trust shall maintain a fidelity bond in an amount
 28 approved by the department of insurance. The fidelity bond
 29 must cover each person responsible for the trust for acts of
 30 fraud or dishonesty in servicing the trust.

31 (v) The trust is subject to IC 27-4-1-4.5 regarding claims
 32 settlement practices.

33 (vi) The trust shall file an annual financial statement in the
 34 form required by IC 27-1-3-13 not later than March 1 of
 35 each year.

36 (vii) The trust is not covered by the Indiana insurance
 37 guaranty association created under IC 27-6-8. The liability
 38 of each school corporation **and charter school** is joint and
 39 several.

40 (viii) The trust is subject to examination by the department
 41 of insurance. All costs associated with an examination shall
 42 be borne by the trust.



1 (ix) The department of insurance may deny, suspend, or
 2 revoke the registration of a trust if the commissioner finds
 3 that the trust is in a hazardous financial condition, the trust
 4 refuses to be examined or produce records for examination,
 5 or the trust has failed to pay a final judgment rendered
 6 against the trust by a court within thirty (30) days.

7 (B) The department of insurance may adopt rules under
 8 IC 4-22-2 to implement this subdivision.

9 (2) Electing, as an individual school corporation **or charter**
 10 **school** or as more than one (1) school corporation, **charter**
 11 **school, or school corporation and charter school** acting jointly,
 12 to aggregate purchases of natural gas commodity supply from any
 13 available natural gas commodity seller for all schools included in
 14 the aggregated purchases. A rate schedule that is:

15 (A) filed by a natural gas utility; and

16 (B) approved by the Indiana utility regulatory commission;
 17 must include provisions that allow a school corporation **or**
 18 **charter school** or school corporations, **charter schools, or**
 19 **school corporations and charter schools** acting jointly to elect
 20 to make aggregated purchases of natural gas commodity supplies.
 21 Upon request from a school corporation **or charter school**, a
 22 natural gas utility shall summarize the rates and charges for
 23 providing services to each school, **including each charter**
 24 **school**, in the school corporation on one (1) summary bill for
 25 remitting payment to the utility.

26 (3) Consolidating purchases with other school corporations,
 27 **charter schools**, or units of government of the following:

28 (A) School buses and other vehicles and vehicle fleets.

29 (B) Fuel, maintenance, or other services for vehicles or vehicle
 30 fleets.

31 (C) Food services.

32 (D) Facilities management services.

33 (E) Transportation management services.

34 (F) Curricular materials, technology, and other school
 35 materials and supplies.

36 (G) Any other purchases a school corporation **or charter**
 37 **school** may require.

38 Purchases may be made by contiguous school corporations,
 39 **including charter schools in the contiguous school**
 40 **corporations**, as part of regional consolidated purchasing
 41 arrangements, or from consolidated sources under multistate
 42 cooperative bidding arrangements.



1 SECTION 6. IC 20-42.5-2-2, AS ADDED BY P.L.2-2007,
2 SECTION 240, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017]: Sec. 2. A school corporation **or charter**
4 **school** may use shared services arrangements with other school
5 corporations, **charter schools**, and units of government, including:

6 (1) the use of shared administrative services overseeing
7 transportation, food service, facilities, or other operations;

8 (2) the use of shared administrative services to manage finance,
9 payroll, human resources, information technology, purchasing, or
10 other administrative services; and

11 (3) the use of shared resources to provide instruction,
12 supplemental services, extracurricular activities, or other student
13 services.

14 School corporations **and charter schools** are not required to merge
15 schools, consolidate, or otherwise relinquish control of curriculum,
16 instruction, or student activities to use shared services arrangements.

17 SECTION 7. IC 20-42.5-2-4, AS ADDED BY P.L.2-2007,
18 SECTION 240, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
19 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017]: Sec. 4. (a) Educational service centers
20 established under IC 20-20-1 shall support and facilitate actions by
21 school corporations **and charter schools** under this article, including
22 by the use of an educational service center's existing cooperative
23 agreements.

24 (b) School corporations, **charter schools**, and educational service
25 centers may use the division of finance of the department and the office
26 of management and budget to provide technical assistance under this
27 article.

28 (c) Not later than August 31 of each year, the educational service
29 centers shall report to the state board the results of the efforts of the
30 educational service centers under this article during the preceding
31 school year.

