
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 432 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY J. HARRIS, KINSEY, MURT, D. COSTA, FREEMAN,
O'BRIEN, THOMAS, V. BROWN, ROZZI, MILLARD, HELM, COHEN,
KORTZ, DAVIDSON AND DEASY, AUGUST 10, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, AUGUST 10, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 conduct a comprehensive study on the compensation provided to
3 administrators of charter schools across this Commonwealth.

4 WHEREAS, Charter schools are public schools that utilize
5 taxpayer dollars and operate independently from the existing
6 school district structure; and

7 WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon all public schools to be good
8 and faithful stewards of public dollars and to responsibly set
9 salary levels in the compensation of their employees and
10 executives; and

11 WHEREAS, Since the 1997 enactment of the Charter School Law,
12 Article XVII-A of the Public School Code of 1949, which
13 established charter schools in this Commonwealth, there has been
14 an increasing recognition and appreciation of the need for
15 greater oversight of charter schools, including concerns
16 relating to funding and how public tax dollars are being
17 utilized by charter schools; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2008, the Charter School Law was amended to

1 address concerns relating to charter school executive
2 compensation by prohibiting an administrator of a charter school
3 from receiving compensation from another charter school or
4 company that provides management or other services to another
5 charter school; and

6 WHEREAS, The term "administrator" applies to the compensation
7 of a charter school's chief executive officer and all other
8 employees of a charter school who, by virtue of their positions,
9 exercise management or operational oversight responsibilities;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The Charter School Law does not address the amount
12 that is permissible for an administrator of a charter school to
13 earn in salary or other benefits in its compensation package;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The Charter School Law regards charter
16 administrators as public officials, requiring them to adhere to
17 State ethical standards and file financial disclosure
18 statements; and

19 WHEREAS, A charter school operates as an independent local
20 education agency with a board of trustees that is responsible
21 for managing the school and determining the compensation of its
22 executives, and the board should do so within an appropriate
23 salary range; and

24 WHEREAS, Under current law, neither the Commonwealth nor the
25 school district has control over the amount of compensation a
26 charter school executive receives; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
28 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a
29 comprehensive study on the compensation provided to
30 administrators of charter schools across this Commonwealth; and

1 be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the study include a comparison of the
3 compensation of charter school chief executive officers with
4 that of chief ranking officials employed within the school
5 district structure and that such comparison relate to the scope
6 of the specific duties assigned to each position and to any
7 relationship that may exist regarding the number of students
8 overseen by an executive in a given position and the number of
9 administrators supervised by an executive; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee,
11 in performing its study, contact chief executive officers of
12 charter schools, boards of trustees of charter schools, as well
13 as school superintendents and administrators employed within the
14 school district structure across this Commonwealth; and be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee,
17 in performing its study, review information relating to other
18 states that include charter schools in their educational options
19 in order to determine if any of those states have enacted laws
20 that provide for the compensation of chief executive officers of
21 charter schools or have established guidelines for charter
22 school boards of trustees to utilize in setting executive
23 compensation; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the study include recommendations as to
25 guidelines that could be utilized by a board of trustees of a
26 charter school in setting appropriate salary levels; and be it
27 further

28 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
29 prepare a report of its findings and conclusions with all
30 supporting documentation and submit its report to the General

1 Assembly within 12 months from the adoption of this resolution.