



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2005 Assembly Bill 730

**Assembly
Amendment 3**

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Under *current law*, school boards may establish or enter into contracts to establish charter schools, which operate with fewer constraints than traditional public schools. Current law also permits the University of Wisconsin (UW)-Milwaukee, the UW-Parkside, the Milwaukee Area Technical College, and the City of Milwaukee to operate charter schools directly or to contract for the operation of charter schools. The latter are sometimes referred to as independent or 2r charter schools (named after the statutory subsection that applies to them). With one limited exception that applies to pupils at the Woodlands School under certain circumstances, only pupils who reside in the school district in which a 2r charter school is located may attend the charter school.

2005 Assembly Bill 730 allows any baccalaureate or graduate degree granting institution within the UW System to operate or to contract for the operation of a 2r charter school with the approval of the Board of Regents. With exceptions for the UW-Milwaukee and the UW-Parkside (to which current law continues to apply), the bill permits the chancellor of any other such UW institution to establish or contract for the establishment of up to five 2r charter schools. However, the bill limits the number of such UW institutions that may do so to five. The bill provides that the State Superintendent of Public Instruction is responsible for approving the first five requests from UW institutions and maintaining a waiting list of other requests. (With five institutions each permitted up to five charter schools, the bill potentially allows up to 25 new 2r charter schools.)

Assembly Amendment 3 to the bill would provide that if any UW institution (other than the UW-Milwaukee or UW-Parkside) establishes or contracts for the establishment of a 2r charter school, any pupil who resides in the state may attend the charter school.

Legislative History

Assembly Amendment 3 was offered by Representative Vukmir and adopted by the Assembly on a vote of Ayes, 56; Noes, 39. The Assembly then passed the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 56; Noes, 36; Paired, 6.

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