



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2003 Assembly Bill 261

Senate Amendment 1

Memo published: October 30, 2003

Contact: Joyce L. Kiel, Senior Staff Attorney (266-3137)

Current Law

School boards may enter into contracts to establish charter schools. In addition, the University of Wisconsin (UW)-Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Area Technical College, the City of Milwaukee, and the UW-Parkside may operate charter schools directly or contract for their operation. These are sometimes referred to as “(2r) charter schools” (after the numbering in the statutes) or independent charter schools.

Under current law, in order to attend a (2r) charter school, a pupil must reside in the school district in which the (2r) charter school is located. Thus, to attend a (2r) charter school in the Milwaukee School District (that is, a charter school operated by or under contract with the UW-Milwaukee, Milwaukee Area Technical College, or the City of Milwaukee, hereinafter referred to as a Milwaukee (2r) charter school), a pupil must reside in the Milwaukee School District, that is, in the City of Milwaukee.

In addition to meeting this residency requirement, in order to attend a Milwaukee (2r) charter school, the pupil also must have been *one* of the following in the *previous school year*:

1. Enrolled in the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS).
2. Attended a private school under the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP).
3. Enrolled in grades kindergarten to 3 in a private school located in the City of Milwaukee, other than under the MPCP.
4. Not enrolled in any school.
5. Enrolled in a (2r) charter school.

2003 Assembly Bill 261

The bill does the following:

1. With respect to the Milwaukee (2r) charter schools, deletes the requirement that the pupil be a resident of the Milwaukee School District.
2. With respect to the Milwaukee (2r) charter schools, deletes the requirement that the pupil meet one of the five criteria above regarding status in previous school year.
3. Explicitly authorizes a school board, including the MPS board, to transport pupils to and from a charter school.

Senate Amendment 1

Senate Amendment 1 to the bill specifies that a pupil who does not reside in the Milwaukee School District may attend a Milwaukee (2r) charter school, but the charter school must give preference in admission to pupils who reside in the Milwaukee School District.

Legislative History

The bill was recommended for passage by the Assembly Committee on Education Reform on a vote of Ayes, 9, Noes, 4. The bill was passed by the Assembly on a vote of Ayes, 63, Noes, 35. The Joint Committee on Finance recommended concurrence on a vote of Ayes, 12, Noes, 4. Senate Amendment 1 was offered by Senator Moore and adopted by the Senate on a voice vote. The Senate concurred in the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 18, Noes, 14.

JLK:wu;ksm