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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

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<b>2003 Wisconsin Act 156</b> [2003 Assembly Bill 747]	<b>Woodlands Charter School</b>
2003 Acts: <a href="http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/">www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/</a>	Act Memos: <a href="http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm">www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm</a>

### **BACKGROUND**

The City of Milwaukee, the University of Wisconsin (UW)-Milwaukee, Milwaukee Area Technical College, and the UW-Parkside may establish and operate a charter school or contract with a person to operate a charter school. These are sometimes referred to as independent charter schools or (2r) charter schools (named after s. 118.40 (2r), Stats., which authorized their creation).

In general, only pupils who reside in the school district in which a (2r) charter school is located may attend that charter school. With respect to (2r) charter schools established by any of the first three entities (Milwaukee (2r) charter schools), additional eligibility criteria apply; namely, in the previous school year, the pupil must have been one of the following: (1) enrolled in the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS); (2) attended a private school under the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP); (3) enrolled in grades K to 3 in a private school in the City of Milwaukee, other than under the MPCP; (4) not enrolled in school; or (5) enrolled in a (2r) charter school.

The Woodlands School, located in the City of Milwaukee, is a private school that participated in the MPCP but is being converted to a Milwaukee (2r) charter school beginning with the 2004-05 school year. Prior law would not have permitted certain pupils attending Woodlands School in the 2003-04 school year to attend Woodlands School after its conversion to a (2r) charter school, namely: (1) pupils who are not residents of the MPS school district; and (2) pupils who reside in the MPS school district but did not attend Woodlands under the MPCP and were in grade 4 or above in the 2003-04 school year.

### **2003 WISCONSIN ACT 156**

2003 Wisconsin Act 156 would allow such otherwise ineligible pupils to attend the Woodlands School after its conversion to a (2r) charter school under certain circumstances. Specifically, a pupil who attended Woodlands School in the 2003-04 school year may attend Woodlands School as a (2r)

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents.

charter school in the 2004-05 school year. Eligibility for such a pupil to attend Woodlands School applies as long as that pupil continues to attend Woodlands School in each succeeding school year.

In addition, the Act provides that if a pupil attended Woodlands School in the 2003-04 school year, a member of the pupil's family who resides in the same household as the pupil may attend Woodlands School. The provision applies even if the family member is not a resident of the MPS school district or is a resident of the MPS school district but does not meet one of the five additional eligibility criteria that apply to Milwaukee (2r) charter schools.

As under prior law, individuals are also eligible to Woodlands School (or any other Milwaukee (2r) charter school) if they are residents of the Milwaukee school district and meet at least one of the five additional eligibility criteria that apply to Milwaukee (2r) charter schools, as discussed above.

***Effective Date:*** The Act becomes effective March 31, 2004.

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