



JIM DOYLE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

April 18, 2006

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY:

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 1060. This bill defines the term “virtual charter school” as a charter school in which instruction is provided primarily by means of the Internet, and the pupils enrolled in, and instructional staff employed by, the charter school are geographically remote from each other. Current law does not define the term virtual charter school, but also does not prohibit virtual charter schools.

Under current law, any person seeking to teach in a public school (including a charter school) must first procure a license or permit from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). AB 1060 defines “teaching” for the purpose of virtual charter schools to mean assigning grades or credits to pupils.

Current law requires that all “instructional staff” in independent charter schools (City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee Area Technical College, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and University of Wisconsin-Parkside) hold a license or permit to teach issued by DPI. Current law also requires each school board to ensure that all “instructional staff” of charter schools that are instrumentalities of the school district hold a license or permit to teach issued by DPI, which has promulgated administrative rules defining “instructional staff” for this purpose. AB 1060 specifies that for virtual charter schools, regardless of the chartering agency, “instructional staff” means assigning grades or credits to pupils.

Current law allows regular public schools to charge tuition to non-state residents who attend these schools, but prohibits charter schools from charging tuition to non-resident students. AB 1060 expands the authority to charge tuition to non-state residents attending any charter school, including a virtual charter school.

I am vetoing Assembly Bill 1060 because I object to allowing a lower standard for teachers and instructional staff in virtual charter schools than what the law requires for teachers and instructional staff in our public schools, including non-virtual charter schools. The effect of modifying the definition of “teaching” and “instructional staff” under this bill is that for virtual charter schools, only those persons who have responsibility for assigning grades or credits to pupils would be required to obtain a teaching license or permit from DPI. Actual pupil instruction could be delivered by persons without a state-issued license or permit.

Education is my top priority as Governor, and I strongly believe we need higher standards in our schools. Unfortunately, this bill does just the opposite, lowering the

bar on the people entrusted to educate our kids. When it comes to education, I'm a pretty basic guy, and I simply believe that teaching should be done by professional, certified teachers. We shouldn't have a lower standard for students in virtual schools than we have for students in regular schools.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM DOYLE
Governor