



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF MEMORANDUM

Memo No. 1

TO: MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CHARTER SCHOOLS

FROM: Joyce L. Kiel and Russ Whitesel, Senior Staff Attorneys

RE: Background Information About Charter School Law and Charter Schools in Wisconsin

DATE: September 11, 2006

The enclosed documents provide general background information about charter school law and charter schools in Wisconsin:

1. Section 118.40, Stats., relating to charter schools. This version of s. 118.40, Stats., was released by the Revisor of Statutes on August 21, 2006, and includes all changes made to this section thus far in the 2005-06 Legislative Session. (It also is available at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us> under "Searchable Infobase.") Those changes were as follows:
 - 2005 Wisconsin Act 25 -- Repealed the requirement that for pupils to attend a charter school located in the City of Milwaukee and established by the City of Milwaukee, University of Wisconsin (UW)-Milwaukee, or Milwaukee Area Technical College (other than the Woodlands School), the pupil must have been one of the following in the previous school year: (a) enrolled in such a charter school; (b) enrolled in the Milwaukee Public Schools; (c) was attending a school under the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program; (d) enrolled in grades kindergarten to three in a private school located in the City of Milwaukee other than under the Choice Program; or (e) not enrolled in school.
 - 2005 Wisconsin Act 111 -- Changed the maximum number of pupils at the charter school established by the UW-Parkside from 400 to 480.
 - 2005 Wisconsin Act 346 -- Permits a charter school to be established that enrolls only one sex or that provides one or more courses that enroll only one sex if the chartering entity makes available to the opposite sex, under the same policies and criteria of admission, schools or courses that are comparable to each such school or course.

2. "Wisconsin Charter Schools Yearbook 2005-2006" published by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. (It also is available at: http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/pdf/dpi2005_06_web.pdf.)

Appendix B at pages 112 to 116 is a version of s. 118.40, Stats., which does *not* include the changes made in the 2005-06 Legislative Session. Please refer to Item 1., above, for the current language in s. 118.40, Stats.

3. "Charter Schools," Informational Paper 31, Legislative Fiscal Bureau (January 2005). (It also is available at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lfb/Informationalpapers/info.html>.) An updated version will be published in January 2007 which will reflect intervening statutory changes and include more recent data. (It also will be available at the Legislative Fiscal Bureau Web site upon publication.)

JLK:RW:ksm

Enclosures