BILL ANALYSIS

S.B. 1484 By: Shapiro Public Education Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Public school districts and campuses are currently able to earn academic distinction designations to highlight achievement in certain categories of performance. These distinctions recognize campuses not just for their students passing state assessments, but for taking steps to enrich their students through a variety of curriculum areas. It has been noted, however, that charter schools are not explicitly included as being eligible to earn distinction designations. S.B. 1484 seeks to authorize open-enrollment charter schools to be awarded academic distinction designations.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

S.B. 1484 amends the Education Code to subject an open-enrollment charter school to a prohibition, restriction, or requirement, as applicable, imposed by statutory provisions governing public education or a rule adopted therein, relating to public school accountability under statutory provisions relating to distinction designations. The bill prohibits an open-enrollment charter school from being awarded a distinction designation by the commissioner of education if the charter school is evaluated under alternative education accountability procedures adopted by the commissioner. The bill establishes that, for purposes of statutory provisions governing distinction designation, a district includes an open-enrollment charter school that operates on more than one campus and a campus includes an open-enrollment charter school campus.

EFFECTIVE DATE

On passage, or, if the bill does not receive the necessary vote, September 1, 2011.

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