

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Education
For HB 2102

Compiled on: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 1:06 AM

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Hearing Date: April 18, 2023 8:00 AM

LISA JACKSON

Self, marketing

New Braunfels, TX

This is fiscally irresponsible and sneaky. Taxpayers have a right to know all of the details of a potential new charter schools, as does the ISD. See where I stand below.

NO ADDRESS IS REQUIRED TO REQUEST A NEW CAMPUS: Charter schools are not required to provide an address or even a zip code when they file an amendment to open a new campus – so school districts often have no idea where the proposed new campus will locate and can't develop responsible enrollment projections. For example, charter schools can simply indicate the new campus will be "in San Antonio."

NO NOTICE TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS AFTER THE AMENDMENT IS FILED: These bills do not require charter schools to notify a school district over the entire 3-year time period once they have selected a site for the new campus. School districts only receive a notice when the amendment is initially filed.

WHY NOTICE MATTERS: Without notice of the address where a charter intends to locate, parents and taxpayers are left in the dark, and school districts can't plan ahead for the financial impact of enrollment loss. Charters could even locate a new campus nearby a new district campus that recently opened after receiving voter approval in a bond election. The level of student need and student demographics can change drastically over a three-year period.

Kenyon Andrews, Educator
TSTA / NEA, Public Education, Teacher.
Lubbock, TX

As an educational advocate, I am concerned about the implications of HB 2102 on public education and K-12 students. By doubling the time existing charter schools have to open a new campus, this bill can have severe consequences for school districts, parents, and taxpayers.

The fact that charter schools are not required to notify a school district over the entire 3-year period once they have selected a site for the new campus is particularly troubling. This lack of transparency leaves parents and taxpayers in the dark, and school districts unable to plan ahead for the financial impact of enrollment loss. This can result in a situation where public schools are left with fewer resources to provide quality education to their students.

Furthermore, the expanded time frame for opening a new charter campus can also allow low-performing charter schools to expand. This can compromise the quality of education provided to students, as well as the financial stability of the public school system.

In conclusion, I urge lawmakers to consider the impact of HB 2102 on public education and K-12 students, and to prioritize transparency and accountability in the charter school system. Our students deserve the best education possible, and that can only be achieved through a fair and equitable system that supports all students, regardless of their zip code or socio-economic status.

David Anderson
Mr.
San Antonio, TX

HB 2102 will double the time existing charter schools have to open a new charter campus from 18 months to 36 months through the amendment process. The bill does not require charter schools to notify a school district over the entire 3-year time period once they have selected a site for the new campus. School districts only receive a notice when the amendment is initially filed.

Without notice of the address where a charter intends to locate, parents and taxpayers are left in the dark, and school districts can't plan ahead for the financial impact of enrollment loss. In addition, with a three-year window to open a new charter campus, low-performing charter schools could be allowed to expand.

Aierelle Bundrant
KEA
Killeen, TX

Stop allowing them to waste money and miss use money

George Brian Vachris, P.E.
self retired
Humble, TX

I support this bill.

EVE MARGOLIS
self
Austin, TX

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Amy Gatlin
Defense of democracy
Allen, TX

We lived in Florida for almost 6 years. We watched charter schools destroy public schools by diverting money to schools that didn't take SPED kids, didn't meet the same state requirements, had high teacher turn over, underperformed on testing and spent less money per child so they can pay their execs.
Charters are not good for Texas. They will take down our public school system.
Please do not support charters or charter expansion. You will harm more Texans that would ever benefit from them.

Marlene Lobberecht
self/retired teacher
Houston, TX

Support the advanced notification from 18 to a minimum of 36 months advanced notification of ISD Supt. before any charter school campus expansion.

Amy Bruno
Upbring/Trinity Charter Schools
Austin, TX
House Committee on Public Education
PO Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

Dear Committee Members:

Trinity Charter Schools (TCS), which serves over 1,000 Texas youth living in the state's care, supports HB 2102. As a proud advocate for education and a resident of Texas. I am writing to express my wholehearted support for Texas House Bill 2102, sponsored by Rep. Craig Goldman, which addresses a crucial issue that impacts both public charter schools and Independent School Districts (ISDs) in our state. Currently, state law allows public charter schools to request permission from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to expand up to 18 months before they intend to open a new campus. However, this timeline is often inadequate for public charter schools to secure land, obtain necessary approvals, and construct new buildings or rehabilitate existing ones. ISDs have also expressed concerns that the current timeline does not allow them sufficient time to plan for the impact of a new public charter school campus on their operations and budgets. HB 2102 seeks to address these challenges by extending the timeline for public charter schools to request permission from the state to open a new campus up to 36 months in advance. This additional time will provide charter schools with the necessary flexibility to secure suitable locations, obtain approvals, and construct or rehabilitate facilities, thereby ensuring that they can effectively serve their students and communities. Furthermore, extending the timeline for public charter schools to request permission for new campuses will also benefit ISDs by providing them with adequate time to plan for potential impacts, such as changes in student enrollment and budgets. This will allow ISDs to make informed decisions and better manage resources, ultimately benefiting the students and families they serve. I believe that providing public charter schools and ISDs with a longer timeline for planning and preparation is a commonsense solution that will promote transparency, accountability, and effective education delivery. I urge you to support Texas HB 2102, sponsored by Rep. Craig Goldman, and take a proactive step toward addressing this critical issue.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Dr. Andrew Bencoter
CEO, Trinity Charter Schools