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HOUSE BILL NO. 614

Offered January 9, 2008

Prefiled January 8, 2008

A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-212.5 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the definition of public charter school.

Patron—Poisson

Referred to Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 22.1-212.5 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 22.1-212.5. Objectives; definitions.

A. (Effective until July 1, 2009) In order to (i) stimulate the development of innovative programs within public education; (ii) provide opportunities for innovative instruction and assessment; (iii) provide parents and students with more options within their school divisions; (iv) provide teachers with a vehicle for establishing schools with alternative innovative instruction and school scheduling, management and structure; (v) encourage the use of performance-based educational programs; (vi) establish and maintain high standards for both teachers and administrators; and (vii) develop models for replication in other public schools, public charter schools may be established in Virginia as provided in this article.

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B. As used in this article:

"At-risk pupil" means a student having a physical, emotional, intellectual, socioeconomic, or cultural risk factor, as defined in Board of Education criteria, which research indicates may negatively influence educational success.

"Public charter school" means a public, nonreligious, or non-home-based alternative school located within a public school division. A public charter school may be created as a new public school or through the conversion of all or part of an existing public school; however, no public charter school shall be established through the conversion of a private school or a nonpublic home-based educational program. A charter school for at-risk pupils may be established as a residential school. *A public charter school shall also mean a publicly chartered individual department or program in math, science, or other critical shortage area, as established by the Board of Education, that exists within a public school.*

"Regional public charter school" means a public charter school operated by two or more school boards and chartered directly by the participating school boards.

INTRODUCED

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