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**HOUSE BILL NO. 1680**

Offered January 12, 2011

Prefiled January 10, 2011

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

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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. 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 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.

**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, *unless a home-based alternative school meets the definition of a virtual school program pursuant to § 22.1-212.23.* 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, *unless a nonpublic home-based educational program meets the definition of a virtual school program pursuant to § 22.1-212.23.* A charter school for at-risk pupils may be established as a residential 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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