

May 18, 2010

S 1227. LIFT CHARTER CAP/LUNCH REQUIREMENTS. Filed 5/18/10. *TO RAISE THE CAP ON THE NUMBER OF CHARTER SCHOOLS FROM 100 TO 106; TO GIVE PREFERENCE TO SCHOOLS IN CERTAIN LOW-WEALTH COUNTIES; TO REQUIRE NEW CHARTER SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE A FREE AND REDUCED PRICE LUNCH PROGRAM; AND TO REQUIRE EACH NEW CHARTER SCHOOL TO ACCEPT A MINIMUM NUMBER OF STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR THE FREE AND REDUCED PRICE LUNCH PROGRAM, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSION ON POVERTY REDUCTION AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY.*

Amends GS 115C-238.29D(b) for the following purposes: (1) Raise the maximum number of charter schools statewide from 100 to 106. (2) Direct the State Board of Education to give priority to new applications for schools that focus on expanded learning for students who are identified as at risk of academic failure or who are low income and qualify for free and reduced price lunch programs. (3) Direct priority for new applications to schools in Alleghany, Avery, Bladen, Columbus, Edgecombe, Graham, Halifax, Hoke, Northampton, Robeson, Scotland, Tyrrell, Warren, Watauga, and Yancey counties.

Enacts new GS 115C-238.29L to set the following new additional requirements on charter schools that open on or after July 1, 2012: (1) the school must accept a minimum (to be set by the State Board of Education) number of students who are eligible for free and reduced price lunch programs; (2) the school must specify how it will meet that requirement; (3) the school must enroll any eligible student who submits a timely application, unless capacity is exceeded for a program, class, grade level, or building, in which case students are to be accepted by lot, except for students accepted to meet the minimum number of free and reduced price lunch eligibility; and (4) the school must participate in the National School Lunch Program.

Applies to all charter schools that open after July 1, 2012.

Intro. by Jones.

GS 115C