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Senate Bill 619 (Substitute S-1 as reported)
Sponsor: Senator Patrick J. Colbeck
Committee: Education

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Revised School Code to do the following with respect to cyber schools:

- Delete the limit of two on the number of contracts that may be issued for schools of excellence that are cyber schools.
- Delete the requirement that cyber school pupils previously be enrolled in public school.
- Require a cyber school to offer any configuration of grades K through 12 or all of those grades, rather than requiring a cyber school to offer all of grades K through 12.
- Revise the experience that an entity applying for a cyber school contract must demonstrate.
- Delete provisions that limit enrollment in a cyber school to 400 pupils in the first year, allow a cyber school subsequently to add one pupil for each enrolled student who is identified as a dropout, and limit maximum enrollment to 1,000 pupils.
- Delete a prohibition against issuing a cyber school contract after January 1, 2015.

The bill is tie-barred to Senate Bills 618, 620, and 621. Senate Bill 618 would make changes in the Revised School Code concerning the formation, operation, and termination of public school academies, urban high school academies, and schools of excellence, and would allow school districts to contract with other entities for the provision of teachers. Senate Bill 620 would amend the Code to provide for the organization and administration of "conversion schools". Senate Bill 621 would make changes in the State School Aid Act concerning the provision of State aid for the instruction of nonpublic students by public schools.

MCL 380.552

Legislative Analyst: Suzanne Lowe

FISCAL IMPACT

If the expansion of cyber schools led to an increase in the enrollment of pupils not currently in the public K-12 system (dropouts, nonpublic students, or home-schooled students), then there would be an increase in State costs to pay for the additional pupils counted in membership. However, there is no way to forecast the potential change in enrollment that could occur as a result of this legislation. For FY 2011-12, the minimum per-pupil funding is \$6,846; therefore, each additional pupil in membership would cost the State at least that amount.

Date Completed: 10-6-11

Fiscal Analyst: Kathryn Summers

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Bill Analysis @ www.senate.michigan.gov/sfa

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