



Association of Metropolitan School Districts

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Oppose HF 1860 AMSD Talking Points

About the Bill

HF 1860 proposes to amend current law to require operating referendum levy revenue to follow resident students to charter schools. Statewide, this legislation would effectively transfer about \$20 million from school districts to charter schools. The bill was heard on January 24, 2012 in the House Education Finance Committee and was laid over for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill.

Key Points

- The proposal negatively impacts many AMSD member school districts. 21 of AMSD's 37 member school districts would lose a combined \$17 million in revenue under this legislation according to House Research and Fiscal Analysis. (see chart on reverse side)
- When the original charter school law was passed, state policymakers determined that the power to levy and expend property tax dollars should reside with locally elected school boards who are directly accountable to taxpayers at the ballot box.
- To recognize that charter schools would not directly receive referendum levy revenue, the charter school legislation made school districts responsible for the special education costs and transportation costs associated with the charter school students residing in the school district. The Minnesota Department of Education estimates that AMSD member school districts spend more than \$15 million above and beyond the aid they receive from the state and federal government, for special education services for charter school students. In other words, school districts already use referendum revenue to subsidize charter schools. (see chart on reverse side)
- School districts are responsible for the costs associated with running the referendum election including mandated first class mailings to every household in the district and paying other election related costs.
- School districts are responsible for providing transportation services to charter school students. While the state provides some transportation aid to school districts for charter school transportation, it is generally not sufficient to cover the cost.
- School districts offer comprehensive community education services to all school district residents. Residents taking advantage of community education classes may have children in charter schools, private schools or in the district schools.
- The school district is ultimately responsible for educating any and all resident school children that enroll in their schools. It is not uncommon for students to move back and forth between charter schools and the district schools, between private schools and the district schools and between home schooling and the district schools.

Impact of HF 1860 on AMSD Districts:
Revenue Change and FY 2011 Special Education Billing Adjustments from
Charter Schools

		Referendum Revenue Change Under HF 1860	Special Ed Billing Adjustments FY 11
TOTAL			
School Districts		-17,134,172	-15,103,777
Charter Schools		17,134,172	15,103,777
1.2	MINNEAPOLIS PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST.	-8,734,378	-4,178,532
6	SOUTH ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST.	0	-51,934
11	ANOKA-HENNEPIN PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST.	-1,172,458	-996,233
13	COLUMBIA HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST	-67,940	-226,034
14	FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	0	-95,369
16	SPRING LAKE PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS	0	-118,247
112	EASTERN CARVER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL	-169,598	-90,714
191	BURNSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	0	-258,735
192	FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	0	-48,908
194	LAKEVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	0	-184,559
196	ROSEMOUNT-APPLE VALLEY-EAGAN	-193,342	-521,982
197	WEST ST. PAUL-MENDOTA HTS.-EAGAN	-68,909	-149,856
199	INVER GROVE HEIGHTS SCHOOLS	-29,591	-48,731
270	HOPKINS PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	-290,326	-152,491
271	BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	-255,580	-287,442
272	EDEN PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	-196,753	-167,873
273	EDINA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	0	-55,377
276	MINNETONKA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	0	-87,034
278	ORONO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	0	-2,800
279	OSSEO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	-654,045	-697,129
280	RICHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	-155,745	-344,905
281	ROBBINSDALE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	-46,676	-721,940
282	ST. ANTHONY-NEW BRIGHTON SCHOOLS	0	-3,128
283	ST. LOUIS PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST.	-60,058	-211,898
284	WAYZATA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	0	-163,885
286	BROOKLYN CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT	-4,032	-78,900
621	MOUNDS VIEW PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	0	-178,244
622	NORTH ST PAUL-MAPLEWOOD SCHOOL DIST	0	-235,777
623	ROSEVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	-44,131	-361,622
624	WHITE BEAR LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT	0	-191,827
625	ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	-3,306,842	-2,964,275
720	SHAKOPEE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	0	-46,971
728	ELK RIVER PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	-328,632	-205,683
742	ST. CLOUD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	-139,897	-237,417
832	MAHTOMEDI PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT	0	-23,645
833	SOUTH WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DIST	-246,119	-288,856
834	STILLWATER AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DIST.	-969,121	-424,822

Special education costs from tuition billing model only;
Excludes appeals for general education and excess building lease costs.