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Fwd: Bills to abolish Charter Commission advance

1 message

Jason Bauer <jbauer@panaschools.com>
To: Nicole Blodgett <nblodgett@panaschools.com>

Fri, Apr 12, 2019 at 9:16 AM

April Board Meeting

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **State School News Service** <j.m.broadway74@gmail.com>
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Subject: Bills to abolish Charter Commission advance
To: <jbauer@panaschools.com>

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Bills to abolish Charter Commission advance

By Jim Broadway, Publisher, Illinois School News Service

It was obvious in 2011 what the State Charter School Commission would be for. It would have just one role that could not be played - in *political safety* - by any elected official, or even by the appointed State Board of Education, and that was to *nullify a decision* reached after due deliberation by a *local school board*.

Chasing a grant from U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan, Gov. Pat Quinn and policymakers in the legislative branch hastily drafted a bill to *deny local control* of education regarding a question of profound impact on a district the school board was *elected* to serve.

Such an act could leave only anonymous fingerprints. It could be done only by an entity unencumbered by any important cooperative relationships. Only by a "loner" organization that could do a job others would find too politically perilous to undertake no matter how powerful their positions in government.

The Commission members seem thoughtful and decent . They surely see their mission - giving "choice" to children whose public schools are failing - as a noble one. Might their decisions adversely affect students in charter-imposed districts who did not attend the charter? The new law *tells them not to care* about that at all.

Bills to abolish the commission were filed frequently in recent sessions of the General Assembly. Buyers' remorse. But they were doomed by the veto power of former Gov. Bruce Rauner. That's no longer an impediment, of course. Current Gov. JB Pritzker - a charter supporter - favors eliminating the commission.

Legislation to do that was filed in the House and the Senate this year. Now both bills have crossed the Capitol Rotunda for "second-chamber" consideration. [SB 1226](#) passed the Senate comfortably, [40-11](#) on Thursday. And from the other direction came [HB 2100](#). On a House vote of [72-33](#), it's now in the Senate's custody.

One of those bills is likely to be passed and signed into law. My guess is it's HB 2100, the round number. Its sponsor is Rep. Emanuel Chris Welch, who described Thursday an agreement that has brought all parties to a position of either supporting the bill or being neutral - all except commission member, of course.

Under the agreement, the commission goes away and ISBE decides questions about renewal of charters that already have been established. Charter applications denied by a locally elected school board will be appealed, if at all, in court. There will be no elected school board decisions overturned by appointed state boards.

The legislators have been cranking out bills and will continue to do so today, the deadline for bills that do not escape their chamber of origin by the time the House and Senate adjourn. Education bills that were passed and/or assigned to sponsors in the second chamber just on Thursday are listed in the table below.

HB0190	h	La Shawn K. Ford	SCH CD-ACADEMIC SUPPORT
HB0254	h	Will Guzzardi	SCH CD-CLASS SIZE GOALS
HB0256		Will Guzzardi	SCH CD-STUDENT TEACHER-VIDEO
HB0423	h	Sue Scherer	EDUCATION-TECH
HB2100	h	Emanuel Chris Welch	CHARTER SCH COMMISSION-ABOLISH
HB2118	h	Elizabeth Hernandez	MEDICAID-TRAFFICKING VICTIMS
HB2121	h	Marcus C. Evans, Jr.	VEH CD-BUS DRIVER OFFENSES
HB2165	h	Mike Murphy	SCH CD-REQUIRED COURSE-MATH
HB2170	h	Barbara Hernandez	SCH CD-SEAL OF BILITERACY
HB3302	h	Fred Crespo	SCH CD-SPECIAL ED COMPLAINTS
HB3586	h	Fred Crespo	SCH CD-SPECIAL ED SERVICES
HB3606	h	Robert Martwick	STUDENT ONLINE PROTECTION
SB0010	s	Andy Manar	SCH CD-MINIMUM TEACHER SALARY
SB0449	s	Kimberly A. Lightford	SCH CD-PARENT-VICTIM-SERVICES
SB0453	s	Omar Aquino	SCH CD-SCHOOL COUNCIL-OFFENDER
SB0455	s	Cristina Castro	SCH CD-NURSE-MEDICAL CANNABIS
SB0456	s	Iris Y. Martinez	SCH CD-EMPLOYMENT-OFFENDERS
SB0458	s	Heather A. Steans	SCH CD-DATA-SPECIAL EDUCATION
SB1226	s	Linda Holmes	CHARTER SCH COMMISSION-ABOLISH
SB1249		Laura M. Murphy	SCH CD-SEXUAL ASSAULT-REPORT
SB1272		Sue Rezin	SCH CD-SPEECH PATHOLOGIST
SB1287	s	Sue Rezin	SCH CD-SUPERINTENDENT AGREEMNT
SB1569	s	Sue Rezin	SCH CD-SPEECH COMMUNICATION
SB1601		Elgie R. Sims, Jr.	SCH CD-IL HISTORY INSTRUCTION
SB1746	s	Christopher Belt	SCH CD-WORKING CASH FUND
SB1755	s	Dan McConchie	USE/OCC TX-SCHOOL LUNCH
SB1798	s	Chapin Rose	SCH CD-BULLY/HARASSMENT POLICY
SB2075	s	Kimberly A. Lightford	SCH CD-COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE
SB2124	s	Chapin Rose	SCH CD-STUDENT EXPULSION-GUNS

It's getting complicated now. The letter "s" or "h" after a bill number indicates the chamber that adopted an amendment to it. (By the end, many bill numbers will be followed by a "b" to indicate amendments were adopted in both chambers.) The short titles, therefore, are meaningless. You have to click the bill's number.

I'll have the whole situation straightened out and reflected in the ISNS bill-tracking web page by Monday, probably earlier. Then I'll be gone for a few days, visiting my son William, a doctoral student at University of Wisconsin-Madison. His older brother Dr. James Broadway the neuroscientist, will accompany me.

I have a daughter, too. Some of you met her a few years ago, when she returned from a year of teaching English to students in China. I visited her last week in St. Louis, just to briefly celebrate her certification as a graduate of Washington University School of Medicine who is now officially an occupational therapist.

[Here's Amy's resume](#), in case you need an OT. Very proud of her, of all of them.

These special ISNS features will be updated regularly: the [bill-tracking web page](#) showing the status of viable bills that could affect public education policy, and a page of links to all [ISNS newsletters so far delivered](#) in 2019. (The URL for these pages was changed April 1, so only ISNS readers can access them.)

The only way to contact me: Use the link below. As soon as you "submit" your message, it is sent to me by email. Your message may be complex and "attached" to a document, or it may be as simple as "call me."

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Your input - questions, comments, suggestions - are valued. For twenty-four years ISNS has been guided by wisdom "from the field." To contribute in this way, just [click this link to my contact form](#).

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