

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 641

DATE: February 19, 2001

Version: As Introduced

Authors: Ness and Others

Subject: Charter School Pupil Counts

Analyst: Tim Strom, 651-296-1886

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

School districts and charter schools report enrollment information to the department of children, families, and learning (DCFL). Both school districts and charter schools use the MARSS (Minnesota Automated Reporting Student System) system for reporting final enrollment numbers to the department. Final state aid payments are based on the MARSS data. However, payments to school districts and charter schools begin prior to the availability of MARSS data. These initial aid payments are based on estimates of enrollment that are submitted by school districts and charter schools. For school districts, the estimates are provided through the EDRS (electronic data reporting system). School districts estimate enrollment for the next three school years. Charter schools are providing enrollment estimates through pencil and paper forms.

Since Minnesota's school finance system is based on a rather involved count of pupils (adjusted marginal cost pupil units), a school's state aid payments are dependent on an accurate pupil count. Any overstatement or understatement of enrollment affects the school's initial aid payments.

H.F. 641 requires the DCFL to develop a web-based form for charter schools to use to report student enrollment. Charter schools in their first three years of operation are required to submit quarterly enrollment counts using this web-based form. For charter schools that have been operating more than three years, the enrollment data must be submitted in the form and manner required by the DCFL.

1 Payment of aids to charter schools. Predicates a charter school's state aid payments during its first three years of operation on timely quarterly filings of enrollment counts. Requires the enrollment report to show each student's start and end data (if any), and for any charter school offering a learning year program, the hours and times of learning year activities. Requires the DCFL to develop a web-based application for charter schools to use to file enrollment information. Allows a charter school that has been in operation for more than three years to submit enrollment data in the form and manner requested by the DCFL.

