



John Rau

Bill Analysis
Legislative Service Commission

S.B. 12

125th General Assembly
(As Passed by the Senate)

Sens. Randy Gardner, Robert Gardner, Harris, Mumper, Prentiss, Amstutz, Schuring, Stivers

BILL SUMMARY

- Removes the prohibition on establishing a conversion community school as an Internet- or computer-based community school.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Under current law, a school district may sponsor a community school (commonly referred to as a charter school) created by converting "all or a portion of a public school" within the district to a community school. "Conversion" community schools operate in the same manner as new "start-up" community schools, except that alternative arrangements for students and faculty formerly assigned to the schools must be made for those who do not want to take part in the schools following their conversion to community schools.¹

Sub. H.B. 364 of the 124th General Assembly, effective April 8, 2003, enacted language prohibiting a conversion community school from being established as an Internet- or computer-based community school (sometimes referred to as an electronic school or an e-school).² The bill eliminates this prohibition entirely. This change would reinstate the law in effect prior to enactment of Sub. H.B. 364 regarding conversion community schools. Thus, under the bill, a school district could consent to the conversion of one, or part of one, of its existing schools to an Internet- or computer-based community school. As noted above, however, students attending the district school before its

¹ See R.C. 3314.03(B)(3), not in the bill.

² An "Internet- or computer-based community school" is a community school "in which the enrolled students work primarily from their residences on assignments provided via an Internet- or other computer-based instructional method that does not rely on regular classroom instruction" (R.C. 3314.02(A)(7)).

conversion must be given the opportunity to attend school elsewhere in the district if they choose not to enroll in the Internet- or computer-based community school. Faculty members must also be offered reassignments if they do not wish to teach at the community school, although an existing collective bargaining agreement might limit the options available for transfers. (R.C. 3314.02(B).)

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	01-23-03	p. 66
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