



THE STATE  
*of* **ALASKA**  
STATE LEGISLATURE

**Lynn Gattis - State Representative**

Representative.Lynn.Gattis@akleg.gov

*House Education Committee  
Chair*

**CSHB 93**

**Sponsor Statement – Revised**

Currently, only local school districts can approve or reject public charter school applications. School districts monitor, renew or terminate public charter school contracts. A charter school is a semi-autonomous public school that has some control over its budget, curriculum, calendars and selection of employees.

Our state has been recently recognizing the short-comings of our current charter school laws and it has become evident that our state can do more to provide a more charter school-friendly environment. This bill has several components that will promote that more favorable environment.

The bill limits the time that a district has to make its decision to deny or approve a charter school application to 60 days. The bill provides for an appeal process for those charter schools that were denied at the local level. It then allows the Commissioner of the Department of Education and Early Development to approve a charter school that was initially denied by a local district and provides for the State Board of Education to become the operator of the charter school.

CSHB93 secures for a charter school the right of first refusal for leasing of available space of school district facilities and allows the district to charge a reasonable fee that reflects the true operational costs of that facility. It also limits the amount that a district can charge in indirect cost fees to 4% and includes language that state funding generated for special needs, vocational and technical instruction, and construction or major maintenance, be included in the funding directed to charter schools.

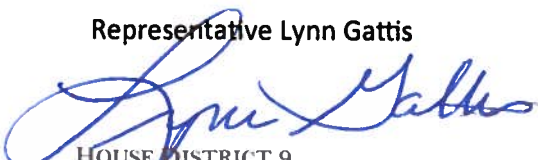
The bill directs school districts to formulate a policy and thoughtfully address the transportation challenges of their charter school students without requiring districts to specifically provide transportation routes for charter school students.

The bill provides for bonding by a municipality or borough for construction, additions and major rehabilitation projects for charter schools through the state's debt reimbursement program at the 70% rate.

CSHB93 decreases the minimum number of students required for establishing the funding rate for a charter school within its first three years, and allows the adjusted student count to be counted at the same rate as for 150 students.

Representative Lynn Gattis

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HOUSE DISTRICT 9  
GREATER WASILLA

Interim  
600 E. Railroad Ave  
Wasilla, AK 99654  
Phone: (907) 373-6285  
Fax: (907) 373-6286

Session  
Alaska State Capitol Rm 420  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
Phone: (907) 465-4833  
Fax (907) 465-4586  
Toll Free: 800-782-4833