



### **Explanation of Changes of CS to HB 93**

Sections 1 - 12 of HB 93 Version Y are deleted and replaced in CS HB 93 version R with the following.

Section One requires that a district make its decision to deny or approve a charter school application within 60 days of that application being submitted. This section also 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.

Second Two lays out the appeal process through the Commissioner's office.

Section Three is the Committee amendment on securing a charter school right of first refusal for leasing of available space of school district facilities and that the district can charge a reasonable fee that reflects the true operational costs of that facility.

Section 4 limits the amount that a district can charge in indirect cost fees to 4% and includes language that state funding that is generated for special needs, vocational and technical instruction and construction or major maintenance should be part of the funding directed to charter schools. .

Section 5 requires that school districts formulate policies and thoughtfully address the transportation challenges of their charter school students. Districts would be charged with coordinating transportation routes and transportation availability as best they can within their current transportation plan to provide transportation where and when feasible. If not, the districts will have to forfeit the portion of their transportation funds generated by the number of students attending the charter school and hand that money over to the charter



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**Lynn Gattis - State Representative**

RepresentativeLynn.Gattis@akleg.gov

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school. It does not require the district to specifically provide transportation for students but they do have to allow charter school students to take advantage of normal bus routes whenever reasonably possible.

Section 6 addresses bonding by a municipality or borough for construction, additions and major rehabilitation projects for charter schools. This will allow for a 70% debt reimbursement of bonds for charter school projects.

Section 7 decreases the minimum number of students required for establishing the funding rate for a charter school within its first three years, and allowing the adjusted student count to be counted at the same rate as for 150 students.

Section 8 repeals the sunset date in order to continue to allow the state to apply for federal grants that help provide start-up funds for new charter schools.

Section 9 establishes the charter school application submission dates as the effective date of this Act.

Section 10 provides for an effective date of Sept. 1, 2014.

CK 3/25/14



**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



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