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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 03/07/11

SPONSOR Smith, J. LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HJM 45

SHORT TITLE Study Charter School Governance SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Haug

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY11	FY12	FY13	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		See Narrative			Non- Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Joint Memorial 45 requests the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) to name a work group to study how charter school governing board members are selected, to look at other states for their practices in this matter, and to study the efficacy of an election process for selecting members of charter school governing boards. The memorial also requests that the workgroup determine a definition of the area of constituency for charter schools and include representatives of the Public Education Department (PED) and charter schools. The work group would submit a report to the LESC by November 1, 2011, with its findings and recommendations, including necessary statutory changes.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The PED notes that House Joint Memorial 45 would require PED and charter schools' staff to participate in the work group, which would presumably include meeting attendance, significant research efforts, preparation of reports, and other duties. PED would need to dedicate resources to the study, without specifying an amount which should be relatively modest.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The PED reports:

State law currently contains no provisions setting forth the manner by which charter school governing board members are to be selected. Section 22-8B-4 B requires only that a charter school governing board have at least five members and that no member of a governing body for a school approved on or after July 1, 2005, serve on the governing body of another charter school.

The memorial would have the work group research and report on the possibility of using an election process to select charter school governing board members, including any recommendations for statutory changes. The memorial would also have the work group determine a definition of the area of constituency for charter schools.

The memorial states that in its infancy, a charter school is likely governed by board members who helped establish the charter school and who share in the original vision and mission of the school. As it evolves, a charter school may need to change its curricular direction and even its vision, and may need to have board members with new perspectives. It further states that charter school parents and staff should have a say in determining who governs their school in the same way communities select local school boards, namely through the election process. But, it states, community-wide elections of governing board members is problematic because charter schools serve undefined geographic areas.

GH/mew