

SENATE, No. 2993

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 8, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Makes various changes in the charter school program in regard to student enrollment procedures, charter revocation, and monitoring of charter schools.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning charter schools and amending and
2 supplementing P.L.1995, c.426.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6

7 1. (New section) The Legislature finds and declares that
8 based on experience since the enactment of the “Charter School
9 Program Act of 1995,” P.L.1995, c.426, which established a charter
10 school program in New Jersey, it is necessary to establish additional
11 standards and safeguards to ensure that the charter school program:
12 is operated in an effective and accountable manner; provides
13 educational programs to address the special needs of particular
14 students or subgroups of students; and contributes to the overall
15 improvement of public education for all students served by charter
16 schools.

17

18 2. Section 8 of P.L.1995, c.426 (C.18A:36A-8) is amended to
19 read as follows:

20 8. a. Preference for enrollment in a charter school shall be
21 given to students who reside in the **【school district in which the**
22 **charter school is located】** charter school district of residence as
23 approved by the commissioner. If there are more applications to
24 enroll in the charter school than there are spaces available, the
25 charter school shall select students to attend **【using a random**
26 **selection process】** through a lottery. The name of each student who
27 is enrolled in the charter school district of residence by December
28 31 of the year prior to the school year for which the lottery is being
29 held shall be provided to the charter school by the district of
30 residence and placed in the lottery. The lottery process shall enable
31 the public to verify the placement of the names of all eligible
32 students in the lottery pool and verify the random nature of the
33 selection process. A lottery for enrollment in a charter school
34 kindergarten shall be held on a subsequent date upon completion of
35 kindergarten enrollment in the district of residence.

36 In the event that the parents or guardians of a student who is
37 selected for admission to the charter school through the lottery
38 determine not to enroll the student in the charter school, then the
39 charter school shall fill that enrollment space with a student from
40 the waiting list maintained pursuant to subsection g. of this section.

41 A charter school shall not charge tuition to students **【who reside**
42 **in the district】.**

43 b. A charter school shall allow any student who was enrolled in
44 the school in the immediately preceding school year to enroll in the

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 charter school in the appropriate grade unless the appropriate grade
2 is not offered at the charter school.

3 c. A charter school may give enrollment priority to a sibling of
4 a student enrolled in the charter school.

5 d. If available space permits, a charter school may enroll non-
6 resident students. The terms and condition of the enrollment shall
7 be outlined in the school's charter and approved by the
8 commissioner.

9 e. The admission policy of the charter school shall, to the
10 maximum extent practicable, **seek** achieve the enrollment of **a**
11 cross section of the community's school age population including
12 racial and **the student demographics of the charter school district**
13 of residence including race, ethnicity, eligibility for the federal free
14 lunch program, eligibility for the federal reduced price lunch
15 program, limited English proficient students, special education
16 services students in respective special education classifications, and
17 other appropriate academic factors.

18 f. A charter school shall file with the commissioner and the
19 charter school district of residence a report on the student
20 enrollment demographics of the charter school no later than October
21 15 of each year. The report shall be in a form prescribed by the
22 commissioner and shall be posted on the websites of the
23 Department of Education, the charter school, and the charter school
24 district of residence.

25 g. A charter school shall maintain a waiting list for admission
26 to the school and shall annually submit the number and
27 demographics of students, consistent with subsection f. of this
28 section, on the waiting list to the commissioner. The Department of
29 Education and the charter school shall post the number on their
30 websites and shall update the number as appropriate.

31 h. The commissioner shall take appropriate action, including
32 modification of the lottery process for admission required pursuant
33 to subsection a. of this section, upon a determination that the charter
34 school has not achieved the enrollment of the student demographics
35 of the district of residence.

36 (cf: P.L.1995, c.426, s.8)

37
38 3. Section 9 of P.L.1995, c.426 (C.18A:36A-9) is amended to
39 read as follows:

40 9. A student may withdraw from a charter school at any time.
41 Except as otherwise provided in section 1 of P.L.2016, c.45
42 (C.18A:37-2a), a student may be expelled from a charter school
43 based on criteria determined by the board of trustees, which are
44 consistent with the provisions of N.J.S.18A:37-2, and approved by
45 the commissioner as part of the school's charter. Any expulsion
46 shall be made upon the recommendation of the charter school
47 principal, in consultation with the student's teachers. The charter
48 school shall provide the student's parent or guardian with
49 information on how to transfer the student to the student's school

1 district of residence and shall forward all student records to the
2 district of residence.

3 (cf: P.L.2016, c.45, s.3)

4

5 4. Section 11 of P.L.1995, c.426 (C.18A:36A-11) is amended
6 to read as follows:

7 11. a. A charter school shall operate in accordance with its
8 charter and the provisions of law and regulation which govern other
9 public schools; except that, upon the request of the board of trustees
10 of a charter school, the commissioner may exempt the school from
11 State regulations concerning public schools, except those pertaining
12 to assessment, testing, civil rights and student health and safety, if
13 the board of trustees satisfactorily demonstrates to the
14 commissioner that the exemption will advance the educational goals
15 and objectives of the school.

16 A charter school shall comply with all requests for information
17 or data made by the commissioner.

18 b. A charter school shall comply with the provisions of chapter
19 46 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes concerning the provision
20 of services to students with disabilities; except that the fiscal
21 responsibility for any student currently enrolled in or determined to
22 require a private day or residential school shall remain with the
23 district of residence.

24 Within 15 days of the signing of the individualized education
25 plan, a charter school shall provide notice to the resident district of
26 any individualized education plan which results in a private day or
27 residential placement. The resident district may challenge the
28 placement within 30 days in accordance with the procedures
29 established by law.

30 c. A charter school shall comply with applicable State and
31 federal anti-discrimination statutes.

32 (cf: P.L.2017, c.131, s.27)

33

34 5. Section 12 of P.L.1995, c.426 (C.18A:36A-12) is amended
35 to read as follows:

36 12. a. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2007, c.260).

37 b. **【The】** (1) Except as otherwise provided pursuant to
38 paragraph (2) of this subsection, the school district of residence
39 shall pay directly to the charter school for each student enrolled in
40 the charter school who resides in the district an amount equal to
41 90% of the sum of the budget year equalization aid per pupil, the
42 prebudget year general fund tax levy per pupil inflated by the CPI
43 rate most recent to the calculation, and the employer payroll tax per
44 pupil that is transferred to the school district pursuant to subsection
45 d. of section 1 of P.L.2018, c.68. In addition, the school district of
46 residence shall pay directly to the charter school the security
47 categorical aid attributable to the student and a percentage of the
48 district's special education categorical aid equal to the percentage of
49 the district's special education students enrolled in the charter

1 school and, if applicable, 100% of preschool education aid. The
2 district of residence shall also pay directly to the charter school any
3 federal funds attributable to the student.

4 (2) In the event that the general fund tax levy for a proposed
5 budget of the school district of residence is rejected by the voters or
6 the board of school estimate, as applicable, and the municipal
7 governing body or bodies of the municipalities included within the
8 district or the board of school estimate, as applicable, reduces the
9 amount of the general fund tax levy, the per pupil general fund tax
10 levy amount calculated pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection
11 shall be reduced in proportion to the reduction made by the
12 municipal governing body or bodies or board of school estimate to
13 the general fund tax levy.

14 c. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2007, c.260).

15 d. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection b. of this
16 section, in the case of a student who was not included in the
17 district's projected resident enrollment for the school year, the State
18 shall pay 100% of the amount required pursuant to subsection b. of
19 this section for the first year of the student's enrollment in the
20 charter school.

21 e. The State shall make payments required pursuant to
22 subsection d. of this section directly to the charter school.

23 (cf: P.L.2018, c.68, s.2)

24
25 6. Section 13 of P.L.1995, c.426 (C.18A:36A-13) is amended
26 to read as follows:

27 13. The students who reside in the [school district in which the
28 charter school is located] charter school district of residence shall
29 be provided transportation to the charter school on the same terms
30 and conditions as transportation is provided to students attending
31 the schools of the district. Non-resident students shall receive
32 transportation services pursuant to regulations established by the
33 State board.

34 At the discretion of the board of trustees of a charter school, the
35 charter school may provide courtesy busing services at its own
36 expense to students enrolled in the charter school.

37 (cf: P.L.1995 ,c.426, s.13)

38
39 7. Section 16 of P.L.1995, c.426 (C.18A:36A-16) is amended
40 to read as follows:

41 16. a. The commissioner shall annually assess whether each
42 charter school is meeting the goals of its charter[, and]. The annual
43 assessment shall be in writing and shall be posted on the
44 department's website no later than October 15. The assessment
45 shall include, but not be limited to, the number of students who
46 enrolled in and withdrew from the charter school during the year,
47 and the student demographics of the charter school including the
48 number of federal free lunch, federal reduced lunch, and limited
49 English proficient students.

1 The commissioner shall conduct a comprehensive review prior to
2 granting a renewal of the charter. The findings of the review shall
3 be submitted in writing to the charter school no later than six
4 months prior to the commissioner's decision on the renewal of the
5 charter.

6 The executive county superintendent of schools of the county in
7 which the charter school is located shall have on-going access to the
8 records and facilities of the charter school to ensure that the charter
9 school is in compliance with its charter and that State board
10 regulations concerning assessment, testing, civil rights, and student
11 health and safety are being met, as well as regulations concerning
12 student discipline, special education, and bilingual education in the
13 event that the charter school is not exempt pursuant to the
14 provisions of subsection a. of section 11 of P.L.1995, c.426
15 (C.18A:36A-11).

16 b. In order to facilitate the commissioner's review, each charter
17 school shall submit an annual report to the local board of education,
18 the executive county superintendent of schools, and the
19 commissioner in the form prescribed by the commissioner. The
20 report shall be received annually by the local board, the executive
21 county superintendent, and the commissioner no later than
22 August 1. The report shall also be made available to the parent or
23 guardian of a student enrolled in the charter school.

24 In addition to the information required by the commissioner to be
25 included in the annual report, the annual report shall include
26 information on the number of students who left the charter school
27 during the preceding school year by withdrawal, expulsion, other
28 disciplinary action, or any other circumstance. The report shall
29 include the student's last date of attendance, the reason for leaving
30 the charter school, and the student's educational placement after
31 leaving the charter school. A charter school shall make
32 arrangements prior to a student leaving the charter school to ensure
33 that the student will have an appropriate alternative educational
34 placement upon leaving the charter school.

35 c. By April 1, 2001, the commissioner shall hold public
36 hearings in the north, central, and southern regions of the State to
37 receive input from members of the educational community and the
38 public on the charter school program.

39 d. The commissioner shall commission an independent study of
40 the charter school program. The study shall be conducted by an
41 individual or entity identified with expertise in the field of
42 education and the selection shall be approved by the Joint
43 Committee on the Public Schools. The individual or entity shall
44 design a comprehensive study of the charter school program.

45 e. The commissioner shall submit to the Governor, the
46 Legislature, and the State Board of Education by October 1, 2001
47 an evaluation of the charter school program based upon the public
48 input required pursuant to subsection c. of this section and the
49 independent study required pursuant to subsection d. of this section.

1 The evaluation shall include, but not be limited to, consideration of
2 the following elements:

3 (1) the impact of the charter school program on resident
4 districts' students, staff, parents, educational programs, and
5 finances;

6 (2) the impact of the charter school program and the increased
7 number of schools on the economics of educational services on a
8 Statewide basis;

9 (3) the fairness and the impact of the reduction of available
10 resources on the ability of resident districts to promote competitive
11 educational offerings;

12 (4) the impact of the shift of pupils from nonpublic schools to
13 charter schools;

14 (5) the comparative demographics of student enrollments in
15 school districts of residence and the charter schools located within
16 those districts. The comparison shall include, but not be limited to,
17 race, gender, socioeconomic status, enrollment of special education
18 students, enrollment of students of limited English proficiency, and
19 student progress toward meeting the **【core curriculum content】**
20 student learning standards as measured by student results on
21 Statewide assessment tests;

22 (6) the degree of involvement of private entities in the operation
23 and financial support of charter schools, and their participation as
24 members of charter school boards of trustees;

25 (7) verification of the compliance of charter schools with
26 applicable laws and regulations;

27 (8) student progress toward meeting the goals of the charter
28 schools;

29 (9) parent, community and student satisfaction with charter
30 schools;

31 (10) the extent to which waiting lists exist for admission to
32 charter schools and the length of those lists;

33 (11) the extent of any attrition among student and faculty
34 members in charter schools; and

35 (12) the results of the independent study required pursuant to
36 subsection d. of this section.

37 The evaluation shall include a recommendation on the
38 advisability of the continuation, modification, expansion, or
39 termination of the program. If the evaluation does not recommend
40 termination, then it shall include recommendations for changes in
41 the structure of the program which the commissioner deems
42 advisable. The commissioner may not implement any
43 recommended expansion, modification, or termination of the
44 program until the Legislature acts on that recommendation.

45 (cf: P.L.2000, c.142, s.3)

46

47 8. Section 17 of P.L.1995, c.426 (C.18A:36A-17) is amended
48 to read as follows:

1 17. a. A charter granted by the commissioner pursuant to the
2 provisions of this act shall be granted for a four-year period and
3 may be renewed for a five-year period. The commissioner may
4 revoke a school's charter if the school;

5 (1) has not fulfilled any condition imposed by the commissioner
6 in connection with the granting of the charter [or if the school has
7 violated any provision of its charter];

8 (2) fails to achieve the student learning standards or fails to
9 meet any performance standard set forth in the school's charter;

10 (3) engages in a practice and pattern of discrimination in
11 violation of federal or State law or violates any federal or State law;

12 (4) violates any provision of its charter, including provisions
13 concerning fiscal responsibility; or

14 (5) fails to make reasonable and appropriate efforts to achieve a
15 student enrollment comparable to the demographic makeup of the
16 charter school district of residence.

17 b. The commissioner may place the charter school on
18 probationary status to allow the implementation of a remedial plan
19 after which, if the plan is unsuccessful, the charter may be
20 summarily revoked. The commissioner shall develop procedures
21 and guidelines for the revocation and renewal of a school's charter
22 which shall be in accordance with the provisions of subsection a. of
23 this section.

24 c. Upon the revocation of its charter, the charter school shall
25 provide the following information to the commissioner and to the
26 parents or guardians of the charter school's students:

27 (1) the effective date of the closure;

28 (2) the name and contact information of the person to whom
29 reasonable inquiries may be made regarding the closure; and

30 (3) the district of residence for the student.

31 d. Upon the revocation of its charter, the charter school shall
32 also provide the parents or guardians with information on how to
33 transfer the student to the student's school district of residence.
34 The charter school shall forward all student records to a student's
35 school district of residence.

36 e. A charter school shall cause an independent final audit of the
37 school's accounts and financial transactions to be made by a public
38 school accountant within six months following the closure of the
39 school. The audit shall include, but not be limited to:

40 (1) an accounting of all financial assets, including accounts
41 receivable, and an inventory of property, equipment, and other
42 items of material value;

43 (2) an accounting of the liabilities, including accounts payable;
44 and

45 (3) an assessment of the disposition of any restricted funds
46 received by or due to the charter school.

47 f. A charter school shall dispose of any net assets remaining
48 after all liabilities of the charter school have been paid or otherwise
49 addressed including, but not limited to, the following:

1 (1) the return of any grant funds and restricted categorical funds
2 to their source in accordance with the terms of the grant or State
3 and federal law, as appropriate, which may include submission of
4 final expenditure reports for entitlement grants and the filing of any
5 required final expenditure reports and final performance reports;
6 and

7 (2) the return of any donated materials and property in
8 accordance with any conditions established when the donation of
9 the materials or property was accepted.

10 (cf: P.L.1995, c.426, s.17)

11
12 9. (New section) In order to enroll in a charter school, the
13 student must first be registered in the school district in which the
14 student resides. For any student who applies for enrollment in a
15 charter school, the board of education of the school district in which
16 the charter school applicant resides shall process the registration of
17 the student for the subsequent school year upon submission of the
18 registration forms. The board of education shall process the
19 registration in a timely manner, including the assessment of
20 residency and the subsequent transfer to the charter school, and
21 shall identify the specific categorical aid for which the student
22 qualifies.

23
24 10. (New section) A charter school shall annually submit its
25 budget for the upcoming school year to the commissioner for
26 approval. The budget shall be submitted in such format, and by
27 such date, as determined by the commissioner and shall include
28 information on revenues received from private or philanthropic
29 sources, expenses supported by those revenues, and any in-kind
30 contributions received by the charter school. The commissioner
31 shall post the charter school's approved budget on the department's
32 website.

33
34 11. (New section) A board of education and a charter school
35 may enter into a written agreement to conduct collaborative
36 education programs or implement shared services if the
37 arrangement will serve to improve any of the following for all
38 students in the charter school and the district of residence:

- 39 a. teacher quality;
40 b. professional development opportunities for teachers and
41 principals;
42 c. school leadership;
43 d. programs and services for students with limited English
44 proficiency and students with disabilities;
45 e. drop-out rates and achievement gaps among students; and
46 f. data collection and program evaluation.

47
48 12. (New section) A charter school shall be subject to review
49 and evaluation under the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability

1 Continuum in the five key components of effectiveness established
2 pursuant to section 10 of P.L.1975, c.212 (C.18A:7A-10). The
3 commissioner shall determine a charter school's capacity and
4 effectiveness using quality performance indicators comprised of
5 standards for each of the five key components. Based on a charter
6 school's compliance with the quality performance indicators, the
7 commissioner shall assess the charter school's capacity and
8 effectiveness and place the charter school on a performance
9 continuum that will determine the type and level of oversight and
10 technical assistance and support the charter school receives.

11

12 13. (New section) a. By April 1, 2021 and by April 1 every
13 three years thereafter, the commissioner shall hold public hearings
14 in the north, central, and southern regions of the State to receive
15 input from members of the educational community and the public
16 on the charter school program.

17 b. The commissioner, no later than December 31, 2020, shall
18 commission an independent study of the charter school program.
19 The study shall be conducted by an individual or entity identified
20 with expertise in the field of education and the selection shall be
21 approved by the Joint Committee on the Public Schools. The
22 individual or entity shall design a comprehensive study of the
23 charter school program. The study shall be completed by October
24 1, 2021.

25 c. The commissioner shall submit to the Governor, the
26 Legislature, and the State Board of Education by October 1, 2021
27 and by October 1 every three years thereafter an evaluation of the
28 charter school program based upon the public input required
29 pursuant to subsection a. of this section and any independent study
30 that may be required pursuant to subsection b. of this section. The
31 evaluation shall include, but not be limited to, consideration of the
32 following elements:

33 (1) the impact of the charter school program on resident
34 districts' students, staff, parents, educational programs, and
35 finances;

36 (2) the impact of the charter school program and the increased
37 number of schools on the economics of educational services on a
38 Statewide basis;

39 (3) the fairness and the impact of the reduction of available
40 funding on the ability of resident districts to provide all students
41 with a thorough and efficient education as measured by the student
42 learning standards, and to promote competitive and comprehensive
43 educational offerings;

44 (4) the impact of the shift of pupils from nonpublic schools to
45 charter schools, including the impact on the demographic makeup
46 of the enrollment in the charter school district of residence;

47 (5) the comparative demographics of student enrollments in
48 school districts of residence and the charter schools located within
49 those districts. The comparison shall include, but not be limited to,

1 race, gender, socioeconomic status, enrollment of special education
2 students, enrollment of students of limited English proficiency, and
3 student progress toward meeting the student learning standards as
4 measured by student results on Statewide assessment tests;

5 (6) the degree of involvement of private entities in the operation
6 and financial support of charter schools, and their participation as
7 members of charter school boards of trustees;

8 (7) verification of the compliance of charter schools with
9 applicable laws and regulations;

10 (8) student progress toward meeting the goals of the charter
11 schools;

12 (9) parent, community, and student satisfaction with charter
13 schools;

14 (10) the extent to which waiting lists exist for admission to
15 charter schools and the length of those lists;

16 (11) the extent of any attrition among student and faculty
17 members in charter schools; and

18 (12) the results of the independent study required pursuant to
19 subsection b. of this section.

20 The evaluation shall include a recommendation on the
21 advisability of the continuation, modification, expansion, or
22 termination of the program. If the evaluation does not recommend
23 termination, then it shall include recommendations for changes in
24 the structure of the program which the commissioner deems
25 advisable. The commissioner may not implement any recommended
26 expansion, modification, or termination of the program until the
27 Legislature acts on that recommendation.

28

29 14. This act shall take effect immediately.

30

31

32

STATEMENT

33

34 This bill implements certain measures to improve the oversight
35 and accountability of charter schools. The bill does the following:

36 (1) provides that the random selection process that will be used
37 to select students for enrollment in a charter school when there are
38 more applications for enrollment than there are spaces available will
39 be a lottery. The name of each student who is enrolled in the
40 charter school district of residence by December 31 of the year prior
41 to the year for which the lottery is being held will be provided to
42 the charter school by the charter school district of residence and
43 placed in the lottery. If the parents or guardians of a student who is
44 selected through the lottery decide not enroll the student, then the
45 charter school will fill that enrollment space with a student from the
46 waiting list;

47 (2) requires a charter school to file with the Commissioner of
48 Education and its district of residence a report on the student
49 enrollment demographics of the charter school by October 15 of

1 each year. The report is to be posted on the websites of the
2 Department of Education, the charter school, and the charter school
3 district of residence;

4 (3) requires a charter school to maintain a waiting list for
5 admission to the school and to annually submit the number and
6 demographics of students on the waiting list to the commissioner.
7 The department and the charter school will post the number and
8 student demographics on their websites and update the number as
9 appropriate;

10 (4) requires the adjustment of the per pupil tax levy amount that
11 a district of residence must send to a charter school if the district's
12 budget is defeated by the voters or disapproved by the board of
13 school estimate and the district's tax levy is reduced. The per pupil
14 adjustment will reflect the reduced tax levy;

15 (5) requires that a charter school's annual report required under
16 current law include information on the students who have left the
17 charter school during the preceding school year through withdrawal,
18 expulsion, other disciplinary action, or any other circumstance, and
19 a student's last date of attendance, reason for leaving the charter
20 school, and educational placement after leaving the school. A
21 charter school will be required to make arrangements prior to a
22 student leaving the charter school to ensure that the student has an
23 appropriate educational placement upon leaving the charter school;

24 (6) requires that the commissioner's annual assessment of a
25 charter school required under current law be in writing and posted
26 on the department's website no later than October 15;

27 (7) requires that the findings of the commissioner's
28 comprehensive review of a charter school required under current
29 law prior to granting a renewal of the charter be provided in writing
30 to the charter school no later than six months prior to the
31 commissioner's decision on the renewal of the charter;

32 (8) establishes the following additional grounds for which the
33 commissioner may revoke a school's charter:

34 - the charter school fails to achieve the student learning standards
35 or fails to meet any performance standard set forth in the school's
36 charter;

37 - the charter school engages in a practice and pattern of
38 discrimination in violation of federal or State law or violates any
39 federal or State law;

40 - the charter school violates any provision of its charter
41 concerning fiscal responsibility; or

42 - the charter school fails to make reasonable and appropriate
43 efforts to achieve a student enrollment comparable to the
44 demographic makeup of the charter school district of residence;

45 (9) requires the commissioner to post a charter school's
46 approved budget on the department's website;

47 (10) permits a board of education and a charter school to enter
48 into a written agreement to conduct collaborative education
49 programs or implement shared services if the arrangement will lead

1 to improvement for all students in areas such as teacher quality and
2 student achievement;

3 (11) requires that a charter school, upon the revocation of its
4 charter, provide the commissioner and the parents or guardians of
5 its students with information on how to transfer the student to the
6 student's school district of residence, and to forward all student
7 records to that district;

8 (12) provides that a charter school must cause an independent
9 final audit to be conducted of the school's accounts and financial
10 transactions within six months following the closure of the school;

11 (13) requires charter schools to be subject to review and
12 evaluation under the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability
13 Continuum (NJ QSAC);

14 (14) provides that by April 1, 2021 and every three years
15 thereafter, the commissioner will hold public hearing to receive
16 public input on the charter school program;

17 (15) directs the commissioner to commission, no later than
18 December 31, 2020, an independent study of the charter school
19 program;

20 (16) directs the commissioner to submit to the Governor, the
21 Legislature, and the State board by October 1, 2021 and by October
22 1 every three years thereafter an evaluation of the charter school
23 program.