

BILL SUMMARY
2nd Session of the 57th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 2905
Version:	CS
Request Number:	11215
Author:	Rep. Dills
Date:	3/4/2020
Impact:	No Impact

Research Analysis

The committee substitute for HB 2905 creates the “Virtual Charter School Reform and Transparency Act of 2020”. The measure requires public school students who wish to enroll in a virtual charter school to be considered a transfer student from their resident district. The measure outlines the details of the transfer process and directs the resident school district to transfer a student’s records to the virtual school within three days.

Students will only be allowed to transfer to one statewide virtual charter school per school year. A second transfer would require the concurrence of both the resident school district and the receiving virtual charter school. A statewide virtual charter school student who has utilized their one allowable transfer shall not be permitted to transfer to another district or statewide virtual charter school without notifying their resident district and initiating a new transfer.

A student may withdraw from a virtual charter school within fifteen days of enrollment and avoid academic penalty. If a student withdraws or cancels their transfer to the virtual school, the virtual school must transmit the student’s records to the new school district within three days.

The committee substitute for HB 2905 also modifies the virtual school attendance requirements. The first day a student completes an instructional activity shall be considered the student’s first date of attendance and membership. Further, the measure increases the amount of instructional activities a student must complete per quarter in order to be considered in attendance for the quarter, and modifies the definition of “instructional activity”.

Any student that does not complete an instructional activity for 15 days shall be withdrawn for truancy. A student who is reported for truancy twice in the same school year shall be withdrawn and prohibited from enrolling in the same virtual school for the remainder of the school year. If a virtual school withdraws a student who is reported for truancy twice, the virtual charter school shall immediately notify the student’s resident district in writing.

Any virtual charter school student who has not completed an instructional activity within 15 days without excuse shall be taken off the attendance roll beginning the 16th day and shall not be considered in the virtual charter school’s average daily membership calculation until the pupil is placed on the roll.

Lastly, the committee substitute for HB 2905 directs each statewide virtual charter school to provide a student orientation, and requires all students enrolled to complete the student orientation prior to completing other instructional activities.

Fiscal Analysis

As written, the measure is not anticipated to result in a negative fiscal impact on the state budget or appropriations.

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Other Considerations

None.

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