

Bill Summary
2nd Session of the 57th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 2905
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Bill Analysis

HB 2905 creates the “Virtual Charter School Reform and Transparency Act of 2020”. The measure requires public school students desiring to enroll in a virtual charter school to be considered a transfer student from their resident district. The measure outlines the transfer process and directs the resident school district to transfer a student’s records to the virtual school within 3 days of the transfer. Students may only transfer to one statewide virtual charter school per school year. A second transfer requires the consent of both the resident school district and the receiving virtual charter school. A statewide virtual charter school student who has utilized his or her allowable transfer is not permitted to transfer to another district or statewide virtual charter school without notifying his or her resident district and initiating a new transfer. A student may withdraw from a virtual charter school within 15 days of enrollment and avoid academic penalty. The virtual school must transmit the student’s records to the new school district within three days if a student withdraws or cancels his or her transfer to the virtual school.

HB 2905 also modifies 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. The measure also increases the amount of instructional activities a student must complete per quarter in order to be considered in attendance for the quarter. A student who does not complete an instructional activity for 15 days shall be withdrawn for truancy. Any student who is reported for truancy twice in the same school year shall be withdrawn and prohibited from enrolling in the same virtual school for the remainder of the school year.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 that has failed to complete an instructional activity within 15 days without excuse shall be taken off the attendance roll on 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. HB 2905 also directs each statewide virtual charter school to provide student orientation, and requires all students enrolled in the school to complete the student orientation prior to completing other instructional activities.