

HCS HBs 1363, 1062 & 1254 -- CHARTER SCHOOL USE OF PROPERTY

SPONSOR: Hruza

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues by a vote of 11 to 0, with two voting Present. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 9 to 0.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HBs 1363, 1062 & 1254.

This bill prohibits ordinances, resolutions, and policies that prohibit school districts from leasing, selling, or transferring property to a charter school for a lawful educational purpose.

The bill requires that deed restrictions or affirmative-use deed restrictions include educational use and that any agreement for the sell, lease, or transfer of property include provisions related to the maintenance and upkeep of the property.

This bill is the same as HB 1062 and HB 1254(2025).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that there are many existing, unused former school buildings, but that there are current roadblocks to having such a building used as a charter school. Supporters further say that the buildings in question are currently vacant and are therefore a financial burden on the municipalities in which they are found. Families will often move into a neighborhood if there is a good school available for their children, and when that happens, the neighborhood can experience an economic revitalization. Supporters also say that the current restrictions on selling the unused buildings are likely due to certain parties wishing to prevent competition.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Hruza; Arnie C. Dienoff; Confluence Charter Schools; Rachel Powers, The Opportunity Trust; and Mo. Charter Public School Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.