

DR Rhode Island Department of Revenue
Division of Municipal Finance

February 28, 2024

The Honorable Joseph M. McNamara
Chair, House Committee on Education
State House
Providence, RI 02903

**Re: 2024 H-7559-AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION –
DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL**

Dear Chair McNamara:

The Division of Municipal Finance (“DMF”) writes in strong support of House Bill 7559, An Act Relating to Education-District Charter School.

Current law requires district charter schools, independent charter schools, and mayoral academies to provide quarterly budget reports to the DMF in a format prescribed by the DMF and the Auditor General. However, in practice, these reports are also provided to the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (“RIDE”), who utilizes them to monitor the financial health of district charter schools, independent charter schools, and mayoral academies.

This bill would amend R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 16-77.2-8, 16-77.3-8, and 16-77.4-8 to reflect the current process by removing references to the DMF and replacing them with references to the Commissioner of RIDE. Aligning the law with the actual reporting and oversight process will provide clarity for all parties involved.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Stephen E. Coleman Jr.
Chief

Cc: The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Education
The Honorable Brandon T. Voas
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker
Thomas A. Verdi, Director, Department of Revenue