

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 644

Short Title: Charter School Transportation Grant Program. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Hardister, Brockman, Torbett, and Conrad (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Education - K-12, if favorable, Transportation

April 10, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A GRANT PROGRAM FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS TO  
3 RECEIVE FUNDS TO COVER A CERTAIN PERCENTAGE OF THEIR STUDENT  
4 TRANSPORTATION COSTS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** Article 14A of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by  
7 adding a new section to read:

8 "**§ 115C-218.106. Charter School Transportation Grant Program.**

9 (a) Purpose. – The Department of Public Instruction shall establish the Charter School  
10 Transportation Grant Program (Program). The purpose of the Program shall be to award grant  
11 funds to a charter school meeting the requirements of subsection (b) of this section for the  
12 reimbursement of sixty-five percent (65%) of the eligible student transportation costs incurred  
13 by the school in accordance with the provisions of this section.

14 (b) Program Eligibility. – If a charter school has a student enrollment of at least fifty  
15 percent (50%) of its students residing in households with an income level not in excess of the  
16 amount required for a student to qualify for the federal free or reduced-price lunch program in a  
17 semester of the school year, the charter school may apply to the Department of Public  
18 Instruction for grant funds under the Program for reimbursement of sixty-five percent (65%) of  
19 the eligible student transportation costs incurred by the school for that semester.

20 (c) Applications. – By August 1 of each year, the Department shall establish the criteria  
21 and guidelines for the grant application process for the upcoming school year, including criteria  
22 for eligible student transportation costs to be covered under the Program and any  
23 documentation required to be submitted with the application. The Department shall accept  
24 applications until December 31 for eligible student transportation costs incurred during the fall  
25 semester of the school year and until June 30 for eligible student transportation costs incurred  
26 during the spring semester of the school year.

27 (d) Award of Funds. – From funds available for the Program, the Department of Public  
28 Instruction shall award grant funds under the Program to charter schools by January 15 for  
29 eligible costs incurred during the fall semester of the school year and by July 15 for eligible  
30 costs incurred during the spring semester of the prior school year. If the funds appropriated for  
31 the Program in a fiscal year are insufficient, the Department may use other funds within the  
32 State Public School Fund for this purpose.

33 (e) Reporting. – The Department of Public Instruction shall report by March 15 of each  
34 year to the Fiscal Research Division and the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee  
35 on the administration of the grant program for the prior year, including (i) the number of



1 charter schools that received grants and the amount of grant funds awarded to those charter  
2 schools, (ii) the types of student transportation costs eligible for reimbursement under the  
3 Program, and (iii) an estimate of the cost of the Program for the upcoming fiscal year."

4       **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
5 Public Instruction the sum of two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000) in  
6 recurring funds for the 2017-2018 fiscal year to be used to award grant funds to charter schools  
7 for the reimbursement of a percentage of eligible student transportation costs incurred by  
8 charter schools in accordance with G.S. 115C-218.106, as enacted by Section 1 of this act.

9       **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2017.