

~~Section 9-101 through 9-118, inclusive, to be under the new title "Title 9. Public Charter School Program"~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(1997 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)~~

Preamble

WHEREAS, The federal government has appropriated \$80 million in Fiscal Year 1998 to support the implementation and start-up costs for approved public charter schools; and

WHEREAS, Studies have shown that charter schools ~~are not elitist enclaves, but rather~~ serve a wide range of economic and cultural groups; and

WHEREAS, If properly developed, structured, and funded, charter schools have the potential to foster teacher creativity and enrich educational opportunities for many students; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly finds that the establishment of a public charter school program is in the best interest of the students of this State; ~~now, and therefore,~~

WHEREAS, The Report of the Public Charter School Study Group to the State Board of Education supports the position that a charter school should be eligible for local, State, and federal funds; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland State Department of Education's Guidelines for Use by Local School Systems in Considering Charter School Applications states that public charter schools should not be viewed as a threat to traditional public education or public school funding; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That ~~the Laws of Maryland read as follows:~~

(a) There is a Task Force on Public Charter Schools.

(b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

(1) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(2) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(3) the following members appointed by the Governor:

(i) the Superintendent of Public Schools or the Superintendent's designee;

(ii) one member of the State Board of Education;

(iii) one representative from the Maryland State Teachers Association;