

1 H.296

2 SHORT FORM

3 Introduced by Representatives Clark of Vergennes, Batchelor of Derby,
4 Bouchard of Colchester, Canfield of Fair Haven, Donaghy of
5 Poultney, Fagan of Rutland City, Hebert of Vernon, Helm of
6 Fair Haven, Higley of Lowell, Hubert of Milton, Larocque of
7 Barnet, Marcotte of Coventry, McNeil of Rutland Town,
8 Savage of Swanton, Shaw of Pittsford, Smith of New Haven
9 and Winters of Williamstown

10 Referred to Committee on

11 Date:

12 Subject: Education; school choice; charter schools

13 Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to expand opportunities for school
14 choice and authorize the creation of charter schools:

15 (1) The bill would permit school districts to use public funds to pay
16 tuition to approved independent schools with a religious affiliation if the
17 religious aspects of the school are incidental to the school's curriculum and
18 academic mission, and if the school does not require students for whom the
19 district has paid tuition to enroll in religion classes or participate in religious
20 observations. Tuition paid by a school district could not exceed the lesser of

1 75 percent of the tuition charged by the religious school or the average
2 announced tuition of Vermont union schools.

3 (2) The bill would require a school district that maintains a secondary
4 school for its resident students to use public funds to pay tuition to a public or
5 approved independent secondary school for any resident student who notifies
6 the school district of his or her intent to enroll in a school not maintained by
7 the district, if the district receives the notification on or before November 1 of
8 the academic year preceding the academic year of intended enrollment.

9 (3) The bill would authorize local school boards, the University of
10 Vermont, and each of the Vermont state colleges to grant a charter to operate a
11 public charter school.

12 An act relating to expanding school choice and authorizing the creation of
13 charter schools

14 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

15 (TEXT OMITTED IN SHORT-FORM BILLS)