

**JOE EMRICK, MEMBER
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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

**COMMITTEES:
GAME AND FISHERIES
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Memorandum

To: All House Members
From: Representative Joe Emrick
137th Legislative District
Date: June 4, 2012

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JE", written over the "From" line of the memorandum.

Subject: Co-sponsorship- Charter and Cyber Charter School Reform

In the very near future, I will be introducing legislation to reform the current charter school law. This new legislation will allow school districts to include PSERS contributions to the list of budgeted expenditures withheld by school districts in their payments to charter schools.

Under current law, there is an inequity in how school districts and charter schools are funded for employer contributions to the Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS). School districts initially pay the total amount of the employee contribution out of their total budget, and then they are reimbursed a portion of this cost by the state. This equates to the state providing a minimum of 50% of the contributions. Charter schools, however, receive the full per-student share of these contributions from the school district, then are also reimbursed at 50% by the Commonwealth. This equates to the state and school districts providing roughly 150% of the contributions for teachers based on the combination of per-student funding and state reimbursements.

My bill seeks to correct this inequity. As pension costs are continuing to increase, this correction must be made to ensure that the additional expenses are not passed on to the local taxpayers. It has been estimated by the Pennsylvania School Business Officials that this small change would save school districts across the Commonwealth \$510 million dollars over the next five years.

I believe that this change to the mandate of funding charter schools will provide needed relief to school districts and place charter schools on a more even playing field with districts in regards to funding concerns.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Jenna Harris in my Harrisburg office at jharris@pahousegop.com or (717) 260-6159.

Thank you.