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### For Immediate Release

Sen. Joyce Waddell [joyce.waddell@ncleg.net]

Sent: Friday, August 02, 2019 4:02 PM

To: [Steve Johnston](#)



From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate  
Mecklenburg County

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 02, 2019

**CONTACT : Sen. Joyce Waddell**  
**(919) 733-5650**  
[Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net](mailto:Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net)



#### Charter Veto

**Charlotte, NC-** As we focus on some of the bills that are highly debated, the Charter School bill is among the one with lots of discussion. The state Senate on Tuesday, July 16, 2019 sent Senate Bill 392, a controversial bill that eliminates the cap on enrollment growth for the state's two virtual charter schools, to Governor Cooper's desk on a 27-15 vote. The state House previously approved the bill.

SB 392 eliminates the 2,592 cap on virtual charter schools and authorizes the State Board of Education to allow them to increase enrollment by more than 20 percent if it would be in the best interest of North Carolina Students. If signed into law by Cooper, SB 392 would:

- Give the State Superintendent the authority to approve charter school facility bonds.
- It would replace the provision in law that gives the SBE the authority to deny a charter renewal if a charters academic outcomes for the "immediately preceding three years have not been comparable to the academic outcomes of students" in the local school district in the county in which the charter is located.
- SB 392 would require a "nationwide criminal background check" for each member of a charter school's board of directors.
- N.C. Virtual Academy and N.C. Connections Academy would be allowed to increase enrollments to up 3,000 students. The pilot program, which enabled the schools would also be extended from four to eight years.

The State Board of Education (SBE) would be allowed to waive the 3,000-student cap beginning in the eighth year of the schools' operation.

Senator Waddell have been critical of efforts to increase enrollment at the two schools because students attending them have not performed well academically. Both schools have earned "Ds" under the state's letter grading system and neither has met expected student academic growth since opening in 2015.

Gov. Roy Cooper vetoed SB 392 on July 29, 2019, allowing the state's popular but low-performing virtual charter schools to add students. "It is important that Charter Schools be held to the same standard as traditional schools."

Joyce Waddell.

###

Sen. Joyce Waddell, District 40 | 1113 Legislative Building, Raleigh, NC 27601

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