

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Authorizing school districts to bill charter schools and nonpublic schools for certain unreimbursed pupil transportation costs

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Overview

State law requires school districts to provide certain pupil transportation services to students who attend charter schools and nonpublic schools.

For charter schools, a charter school may choose to offer its own transportation services to its students, or alternatively, the charter school may require the school district where it is located to provide transportation services within the boundaries of that district to eligible pupils attending the charter school. If the charter school provides the transportation services (either through a contract with a private bus company or by operating its own school buses) then its general education revenue is the full amount calculated under section 126C.10. If the charter school chooses to require the school district to provide the transportation services, a fixed portion of the charter school's general education basic revenue (4.85 percent) and the transportation sparsity revenue is transferred from the charter school to the school district providing the transportation services. In many cases, this revenue is substantially smaller than the school district's actual costs of transporting charter school students.

For nonpublic students, Minnesota's "equal treatment" law requires school districts to provide the same transportation services to nonpublic pupils as it provides to public school pupils. The nonpublic pupil transportation aid reimburses school districts for a portion of these transportation costs.

This bill continues to require the school district to provide the transportation services to charter school pupils and nonpublic pupils but allows the school district to bill back to the recipient schools any unreimbursed pupil transportation costs beginning in fiscal year 2011.

- 1 Nonpublic pupil transportation aid.** Authorizes a school district annually to bill a nonpublic school in an amount not to exceed the difference between the district's actual costs of transporting that school's nonpublic students and the amount of nonpublic

transportation aid received by the school district for those transportation services. Eliminates the responsibility for a school district to provide pupil transportation services to a nonpublic school student whose nonpublic school has an unpaid bill for pupil transportation services.

- 2** **Transportation.** Authorizes a school district required to provide pupil transportation services to a charter school student to bill the charter school for the unreimbursed pupil transportation costs of the charter school pupils. Eliminates the responsibility for a school district to provide pupil transportation services to charter school students who attend a charter school that has an unpaid bill for pupil transportation services.