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**AB 1478 (Jones-Sawyer)****Amended:** 5/1/2017**Title:** Charter Schools**Status:** Assembly Floor—Third Reading**Position:****Summary:**

This bill would require charter schools, and an entity managing a charter school, to comply with the same conflict of interest requirements as school districts, including:

- The Ralph M. Brown Act, unless a charter school is operated by an entity governed by the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, in which case it would be subject to that Act
- The California Public Records Act
- Government Code Section 1090 (which states that certain officers shall not be financially interested in any contract made by them in their official capacity, or by anybody or board of which they are members)
- The Political Reform Act of 1974 (PRA).

The measure would not prohibit an employee of a charter school from serving as a member of the governing body of that charter school, but specifies that such a member shall abstain from voting on all matters affecting his or her own employment.

**SSC Comment:** Assembly Bill (AB) 1478 is sponsored by CTA and supported by numerous labor organizations and CSBA. It is opposed by the California Charter Schools Association and EdVoice.

The District's legislative platform states: "We believe that California must take a careful and comprehensive look at charter school policies relating to the broad spectrum of authorization and renewal, governance, accountability, facilities, funding, and student service practices in an effort to retain charter innovations that benefit students while setting expectations regarding transparency and accountability required of all public school agencies."

We would recommend the Board have further discussion regarding a position on AB 1478 and whether the bill's provisions align with the Board's views on charter school accountability, transparency and governance.

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**SB 808 (Mendoza)****Amended:** 4/24/2017**Title:** Charter Schools: Chartering Authorities and Approvals**Status:** Two-Year Bill**Recommended Position:** Board Discussion**Summary:**

This bill would require all charter school petitions to be approved by the governing board of the school district in which the charter school is located, prohibit a charter school from locating outside of its authorizer's district boundaries, and limit the current charter appeal process to claims of procedural violations. The bill also would specify that charter schools previously approved by a county board or the state and charter schools operating outside of their authorizer's district boundaries may continue to operate until the charter is required to be renewed.

As amended on April 24, the bill would no longer authorize the governing board of a school district to deny a petition if it makes written factual findings in support of the fact that granting the petition would impose financial hardship on the school district.

**SSC Comment:** Testimony was taken on SB 808 on April 26 in the Senate Education Committee, but no vote was taken. The author plans to continue to work on the bill, but not bring it up for a vote in 2017. The bill is co-sponsored by CTA and CFT and opposed by California Charter Schools Association, EdVoice, and numerous charter schools.

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**[SB 765 \(Wiener\)](#)**

**Amended:** 5/3/2017

**Title:** School Facilities: Surplus Real Property: Charter Schools

**Status:** Senate Appropriations Committee

**Recommended Position:** Board Discussion

**Summary:**

This bill would require the governing board of a school district seeking to sell or lease real property designed to provide direct instruction or instructional support that the governing board deems to be surplus property to first provide a written offer to sell or lease that property to any charter school that has submitted a written request to the school district to be notified of surplus real property offered by the school district for sale or lease.

Existing law, the Teacher Housing Act of 2016, authorizes a school district to establish and implement programs that address the housing needs of teachers and school district employees who face challenges in securing affordable housing.

This bill would exempt from the requirement to first provide a written offer to the above-specified charter schools the governing board of a school district seeking to sell or lease surplus property intended to be used in accordance with the Teacher Housing Act of 2016.

**SSC Comment:** Similar requirements were made through State Budget trailer bills, but expired on July 1, 2016. Districts generally did not favor this provision as the selling price would be below market value, and few districts declared property as surplus during this time.

We would recommend the Board have further discussion regarding a position on Senate Bill 765.