

CATO **NOW HIRING**
Store Analyst Trainee • Entry Level



See it.


charlotteobserver.com Opinion

- [News](#)
 - [Local News](#)
 - [Crime](#)
 - [Education](#)
 - [Politics](#)
 - [Nation](#)
 - [World](#)
 - [Weird](#)
 - [Special Reports](#)
 - [Obituaries](#)
 - [Blogs/Columnists](#)
 - [Data Center](#)
 - [Public Notices](#)
 - [Today's Paper](#)
- [Sports](#)
 - [Carolina Panthers / NFL](#)
 - [Charlotte Bobcats / NBA](#)
 - [Blogs/Columnists](#)
 - [High Schools](#)
 - [That's Racin'](#)
 - [College Hoops](#)
 - [College Football](#)
 - [Golf](#)
 - [Knights/Baseball](#)
 - [Checkers/Hockey](#)
 - [Other Sports](#)
- [Entertainment](#)
 - [Events](#)
 - [Movies](#)
 - [Contests](#)
 - [Celebrities](#)
 - [Dining](#)
 - [Arts](#)
 - [Music / Nightlife](#)
 - [Television](#)
 - [Books](#)
 - [Comics & Games](#)
 - [Horoscopes](#)
 - [Blogs/Columnists](#)



- [Living Here](#)
 - [Celebrations](#)
 - [Education](#)
 - [Faith & Values](#)
 - [Food](#)
 - [Health & Family](#)
 - [Home & Garden](#)
 - [Style](#)
 - [Travel](#)
 - [Living Here Guide](#)
 - [Blogs/Columnists](#)
 - [Carolina Bride Magazine](#)
 - [Lake Norman Magazine](#)
 - [South Park Magazine](#)
 - [UCity Magazine](#)
- [Business](#)
 - [Market Summary](#)
 - [Banking](#)
 - [Blogs/Columnists](#)
- [Opinion](#)
 - [Kevin Siers](#)
 - [Blogs/Columnists](#)
 - [Reader Forums](#)
- [Shop](#)
 - [Dealsaver](#)
 - [FindnSave](#)
 - [Online Coupons](#)
 - [Newspaper Ads](#)
 - [Special Sections](#)
 - [Buy Photos](#)
- [Jobs](#)
 - [New Jobs in Charlotte Region](#)
 - [Advanced Search](#)
 - [Freelance, Contract & Part-time](#)
 - [Job Seeker Toolkit](#)
 - [Post a Job](#)
- [Homes](#)
 - [Houses](#)
 - [Apartments](#)
 - [Mortgages](#)
 - [Schools](#)
 - [Property Taxes](#)
 - [Newcomers' Guide](#)
 - [Blogs/Columnists](#)
- [Autos](#)
 - [New Car Search](#)
 - [Used Car Search](#)
 - [Certified Pre-Owned](#)
 - [Sell Your Car](#)
 - [Blue Book Values](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
 - [Legal Notices](#)
 - [Create an Ad](#)




• Hello Guest [Login](#)

-  [Contact Us](#)
 - [Advertise](#)
 - [Letter to the Editor](#)
 - [Issues with Website](#)
 - [Photo Store](#)
 - [News & Info Tips](#)
 - [Newspaper Corrections](#)
 - [Newspaper Account](#)
 - [Staff Listing](#)
 - [E-Edition](#)
 - [More...](#)

-  [Home Delivery](#)
 - [Delivery Problem](#)
 - [Vacation Stop](#)
 - [Account Inquiry](#)
 - [Make a Payment](#)
 - [Subscribe to Newspaper](#)
 - [Subscribe to TV Magazine](#)
 - [Newspapers in Education](#)
 - [E-Edition](#)
 - [Any Other Reason](#)

-  [Subscribe](#)
-  [Advertise With Us](#)
 - [Online Media Kit](#)
 - [Advertising](#)
 - [Classified Ads](#)
 - [Retail Ads](#)
 - [National Ads](#)
 - [Magazine Ads](#)
 - [Online Ads](#)
 - [Direct Marketing](#)

July 26, 2011



Web Search powered by **YAHOO! SEARCH**

charlotteobserver.com Web Archives

- [Weather](#)
- [Traffic](#)

78°  Clear | [Forecast](#)
[Weather Alert](#)

- [Map](#)
- [Trouble Spots](#)
- [Key Routes](#)

- [I-77N](#) | [I-77S](#) | [I-85N](#)
- [I-85S](#) | [I-277](#) | [I-485N](#)
- [I-485S](#) | [74E](#) | [74W](#) | [521](#)

OUR VIEW

[3 Comments](#)

- [Print](#)
- [Reprint or License](#)
- [Share](#)

Charter school bill still has its problems

Constitutional question over governing just won't go away.

Like

[Sign Up](#) to see what your friends like.

Posted: Wednesday, Mar. 16, 2011

A few things are as clear as can be: With the new Republican majority in Raleigh running the legislature for the first time in more than a century, there likely are enough votes to not only lift the cap on North Carolina's 100 charter schools, but to also make a number of other changes unrelated to restricting the number of public charter schools.

Democrats who sat on legislation to lift the number of charter school for years now have reason to reflect on the wisdom of that resistance, though in truth it's likely that a variety of proposals giving charter schools new flexibility and funding options would still be a key topic before the 2011 legislature.

The state Senate approved Wake Republican Sen. Richard Stevens' charter schools bill in February and the House has been revising it ever since. That's good, because the Senate bill had big problems. For one thing, it raised a still-unresolved constitutional issue by creating a commission that would oversee the charter schools. When constitutional questions were raised about how the legislature could delegate power that clearly belongs to the State Board of Education, the Senate made the commission's decisions subject to a veto by a three-fourths majority of the SBE.

That does not solve the problem, as the House Education Committee realized when it began work on the bill. But the House committee's answer - reducing the supermajority required to a two-thirds vote - still doesn't explain how the legislature can delegate constitutional authority to a new commission even if it is subject to reversal by the SBE. What it appears to do, in effect, is set up a new governing board for a separate system of public charter schools. Worse yet, notes Wake Democratic Rep. Deborah Ross, is that the two-thirds veto option sets up an adversarial relationship between two governing boards. If the SBE's only option is to reject a commission decision, that's an unworkable as well as unconstitutional setup.

The only way out of this knot, it seems to us, is to make the charter schools commission purely advisory in nature.

Under a new version of the bill, the cap would be eliminated and the state would permit up to 50 more charter schools per year. It would make the charter school commission subject to the open records and open meetings laws. It would prohibit hiring a teacher whose certification has been revoked. And it requires poorly performing charters to develop improvement plans. Failure to improve would be grounds for charter revocation.

But there are other problems. The bill also would allow charter schools to get funding from other public sources. The original charter law gave charter schools the same per pupil funding as other schools, but did not provide

capital construction money. Lawsuits over the years have made charters recipients of more public funds, and the new charter school bill allows charters to get money for services they don't provide - which means traditional public schools get less. The charters would also get transportation money and reduced-lunch programs but, until the latest version, would not have helped students from low-income families overcome barriers to enrolling in charter schools.

One key improvement made Tuesday by the House Education Committee requires charter schools to make efforts to provide transportation to low-income students living within three miles, and develop plans to provide food service for enrolled low-income students. When House members debate the bill on the floor, they should clarify that charters must provide these services to low-income students.



[Subscribe to The Charlotte Observer.](#)

Like

Sign Up to see what your friends like.

HIDE COMMENTS

This affects comments on all stories.

Cancel Ok

The Charlotte Observer welcomes your comments on news of the day. The more voices engaged in conversation, the better for us all, but do keep it civil. Please refrain from profanity, obscenity, spam, name-calling or attacking others for their views. [Read more](#)

Like 1 person liked this.

Add New Comment

[Login](#)



Type your comment here.

Real-time updating is **enabled**. [\(Pause\)](#)

Showing 3 comments

Sort by newest first ▾



mburch

Would really like to see a voucher system where money is attached to each child to go where they want. Public schools are a disaster because there is little incentive to improve. What is working in places like Belgium that we can apply here? Let parents choose the schools for their kids. Bad schools will fail. Our country did much better prior to the federal government getting involved. Schools today spend too much time on sports and other things besides teaching the kids.

03/16/2011 09:06 AM 2 Likes [Report Abuse](#)

[Like](#) [Reply](#)



mineralspringsnc

My biggest criticism of charter schools in North Carolina is still, and always has been, the fact that these institutions are given lots and lots and lots of state and local taxpayer money with *no public oversight of local operations*. While our public schools, good and bad, are governed by *elected* school boards that are subject to the voters' (ie, taxpayers') evaluation every two or four years, the charters are governed by shadowy boards of trustees over which the taxpaying public has virtually no authority or control.

Removing state-level SBE oversight of charter operations would *compound* these problems. While I prefer local authority over my tax dollars as much as possible, the state-level SBE is better than nothing as a means of ensuring at least a modicum of educational consistency.

Forcing counties to hand over scarce school construction and transportation funds to these organizations is another of this initiative's myriad problems. Counties such as my home county of Union are already cash-strapped due to massive new-school construction driven by excessive growth, and the idea that we as taxpayers would get socked with yet *another* tax increase to subsidize these "voluntary" alternative schools is disgusting and reprehensible. The fact that it is a *Republican* legislature that wishes to put its tax-grabbing hand even deeper into our pockets is the final insult: didn't these Republicans run on a platform of *reducing* taxes? Apparently not: as long as the taxes that are being taken out of *our* pockets are going straight into the pockets of special interests and cronies, that's as good for Republicans as it is for Democrats.

03/16/2011 07:30 AM [3 Likes](#) [Report Abuse](#)

[Like](#) [Reply](#)



therestofthistory

All the children in North Carolina have rights to any tax money as well as any Mecklenburg County kid has rights to any tax money the BOCC may decide to give CMS. While the charter schools had to go to court to get that right and CMS still plays a game with handing over the money as they should, I think the county also has the obligation to fund the buildings as described in the constitution.

Also, due to the bad past behavior of the SBE over charter schools, it is right to find some way to get them out from having any sayso over charter schools. I believe what the Republican legislature is trying to do is to make tax money equally distributed to all NC children. Also, I hope the tax credit gets passed. It has enough limitations on it that I believe protect most of the special interests.

03/16/2011 04:03 PM [in reply to mineralspringsnc](#) [Report Abuse](#)

[Like](#) [Reply](#)

[Subscribe by email](#) [RSS](#)

Let's stop scapegoating and start talking.
It's time for an open discussion about rising medical costs.

BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina
An independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Get the Deal!

Golf: Two Hours of Practice Time for 50% off!



\$15.00
Buy Now!

Value: **\$30**
Discount: **50%**
You Save: **\$15**

dealsaver.com

Sign up for the daily deal email

Enter Email

careerbuilder.com™

Quick Job Search

Enter Keyword(s): Enter a City:

Select a State: Select a Category:

[Advanced Job Search](#) | [Search by Category](#)

[Salary Databases](#)

[City of Charlotte](#) | [Mecklenburg County](#)






[Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools](#)

[Charlotte Observer Featured Jobs »](#)

- [Director of Nursing](#)
 Brookview Healthcare Center
 US-NC-Charlotte
- [Director of FP/Controller](#)
 US-NC-Charlotte
- [Payroll Manager & Payroll Administrator](#)
 Billy Graham Evangelist Association
 US-NC-Charlotte
- [Executive Assistant](#)
 NASCAR
 US-NC-Charlotte
- [Convention Services Coordinator](#)
 Charlotte Convention Center

[» See More Featured Jobs](#)

Recent Blogs

- [Kevin Siers: You Write The Caption](#) 
[Your new \(old\) challenge: July 25, 2010](#)
- [The Daily Views](#) 
[N.C. GOP blames Perdue, Obama for joblessness](#)
- [The Daily Views](#) 
[Lawmakers to blame for jump in jobless](#)
- [The Daily Views](#) 
[Foxx: Had we known, city might not have invested in NASCAR Hall](#)
- [Kevin Siers: You Write The Caption](#) 
[July 15: The new winner](#)

Most Viewed

- [Let's dance](#)
- [Police confirm body in Texas is missing Kinston woman](#)
- [Panthers should follow this 5-step plan](#)
- [Ex-Tar Heel, ex-Tigers expected to sign with Panthers today](#)
- [Lockout over, Panthers, NFL will be wide open](#)
- [Actress Matarazzo plans to wed longtime girlfriend](#)
- [Alcohol involved in boat crash](#)
- [With season on, Panthers' fans pay price](#)
- [Vision Plan sees growth in Center City, nearby areas](#)
- [Panthers lock down Charles Johnson](#)



The Charlotte Observer

Like 6,492

Recommendations

Sign Up

Create an account or **log in** to See what your friends are recommending.



Man's penis cut off, put through garbage disposal | CharlotteObserver.com & The Charlotte Observer N

704 people recommend this.



WBT terminates Tara Servatius | CharlotteObserver.com & The Charlotte Observer Newspaper

59 people recommend this.

Facebook social plugin

[Contact Us »](#)

- [Corrections](#)
- [Letters to the Editor](#)
- [Report a broken link](#)
- [Staff Listing](#)

Submit Content

- [Upload your pictures](#)
- [Upload your videos](#)
- [News tips](#)

[Advertise With Us »](#)

- [Classified Ads](#)
- [Retail Ads](#)
- [National Ads](#)
- [Magazine Ads](#)
- [Online Ads](#)
- [Direct Marketing](#)

Online Extras

- [RSS Feeds](#)
- [Mobile version](#)
- [Charlotte's got a lot](#)

Observer Network

- [ThatsRacin.com](#)
- [MomsCharlotte.com](#)
- [twitter/theobserver](#)
- [Observer on Facebook](#)

The Charlotte Observer

- [Site Map](#)
- [Terms of Service](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [About Our Ads](#)
- [Copyright](#)
- [About The Charlotte Observer](#)
- [About the McClatchy Company](#)