

Date: 03/02/2015

Time: 09:00 AM

Location: 211

Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

Title of Bill: SB 0836, SD1 RELATING TO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS.

Purpose of Bill: Requires state departments, upon the closure of facilities, to consider the facility's suitability for use by public charter schools or early learning pre-plus programs or for development of twenty-first century schools or mixed-use facilities, and to notify the department of education, state public charter schools commission, and executive office on early learning of the availability and suitability of the facility. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education would like to provide comments of concern related to SB836, SD1. The intent of the measure is to provide a process to more readily identify needed facility space for charter and preschools. However, we are concerned that the process places DOE in a role of managing facilities beyond its expertise and purview. The measure appears to propose to bypass the oversight and management of state buildings and land that are more appropriately overseen by the Department of Accounting and General Services and the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

As such, the Department of Education cannot support this measure.