

Senate Bill No. 227

(By Senator Jenkins)

[Introduced January 8, 2014; referred to the Committee on
Education; and then to the Committee on Finance.]

**FISCAL
NOTE**

9
10 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by
11 adding thereto a new article, designated §18-5D-1, §18-5D-2,
12 §18-5D-3, §18-5D-4, §18-5D-5, §18-5D-6, §18-5D-7, §18-5D-8,
13 §18-5D-9, §18-5D-10, §18-5D-11, §18-5D-12, §18-5D-13,
14 §18-5D-14, §18-5D-15, §18-5D-16, §18-5D-17, §18-5D-18 and
15 §18-5D-19, all relating to public education; authorizing
16 public colleges or universities to sponsor community schools
17 in cooperation with county boards of education; providing
18 short title; stating legislative intent; providing
19 definitions; stating powers of community schools and
20 requirements; providing for boards of trustees and their
21 powers; establishing pilot projects; setting forth the content
22 of an application for a community school; requiring a written
23 agreement between a county board and the community school

1 board; providing exemption from public schools facility rules;
2 providing for enrollment; providing for school staff and
3 students; requiring a county board of education to fund each
4 community school in its county; providing for the
5 transportation of students; establishing tort liability of
6 community schools; requiring annual reports and assessments;
7 and providing causes for nonrenewal or termination.

8 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

9 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended
10 by adding thereto a new article, designated §18-5D-1, §18-5D-2,
11 §18-5D-3, §18-5D-4, §18-5D-5, §18-5D-6, §18-5D-7, §18-5D-8,
12 §18-5D-9, §18-5D-10, §18-5D-11, §18-5D-12, §18-5D-13, §18-5D-14,
13 §18-5D-15, §18-5D-16, §18-5D-17, §18-5D-18 and §18-5D-19, all to
14 read as follows:

15 **ARTICLE 5D. HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS.**

16 **§18-5D-1. Short title.**

17 This article shall be known and may be cited as the "Higher
18 Education Community School Law."

19 **§18-5D-2. Legislative intent.**

20 It is the intent of the Legislature, in enacting this article,
21 to provide opportunities for state universities and colleges to
22 establish and maintain schools that operate in cooperation with the
23 existing county school structure, as a method to accomplish all of

1 the following:

2 (1) Improve pupil learning;

3 (2) Increase learning opportunities for all pupils;

4 (3) Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching
5 methods;

6 (4) Encourage curriculum and assessment development;

7 (5) Create new professional opportunities for teachers,
8 including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning
9 program at the school site;

10 (6) Provide parents and pupils with expanded choices in the
11 types of educational opportunities that are available within the
12 public school system; and

13 (7) Hold the schools established under this article
14 accountable for meeting measurable academic standards and provide
15 the school with a method to establish accountability systems.

16 **§18-5D-3. Definitions.**

17 As used in this article:

18 (1) "Agreement" means an agreement between a county board of
19 education and a university or college establishing a community
20 school under the provisions of this article.

21 (2) "County Board of Education" means the county board of
22 education in the county in which a proposed or an approved
23 community school is located.

1 (3) "Higher education community school" means a public school
2 established and operated under the provisions of this article.

3 (4) "State board" means the State Board of Education.

4 (5) "State university and college" means a public four-year
5 college or university with its primary campus in the school
6 district, with an approved teacher education program that meets
7 regional or national standards of accreditation.

8 (6) "Superintendent" means the State Superintendent of
9 Schools.

10 **§18-5D-4. Authority to create community schools.**

11 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the
12 contrary, a state university or college may, pursuant to the
13 provisions of this article, and with the cooperation of the county
14 board of education in the county, establish a community school in
15 the county where its principal campuses are maintained. State
16 universities and colleges, with the cooperation of the county
17 boards of education have the authority to effectuate the provisions
18 of this article, notwithstanding any other provision of this
19 chapter or chapters eighteen-a and eighteen-b of this code.

20 (b) A community school may provide instruction for
21 kindergarten through twelfth grade. A community school is not
22 required to provide instruction for all grades.

23 **§18-5D-5. Powers of community schools.**

1 (a) A community school established under this article has all
2 powers necessary or desirable to carry out its agreement,
3 including, but not limited to, the power to:

4 (1) Adopt a name and seal, as long as any name selected
5 includes the words "community school";

6 (2) Sue and be sued, but only to the same extent and upon the
7 same condition that political subdivisions can be sued;

8 (3) Acquire real property from public or private sources by
9 purchase, lease, lease with an option to purchase or gift for use
10 as a community school facility;

11 (4) Receive and disburse funds for community school purposes
12 only;

13 (5) Make contracts and leases for the procurement of services,
14 equipment and supplies;

15 (6) Incur temporary debts in anticipation of the receipt of
16 funds; and

17 (7) Solicit and accept any gifts or grants for community
18 school purposes.

19 (b) A community school has all other powers that are necessary
20 to fulfill its agreement and which are not inconsistent with this
21 article.

22 **§18-5D-6. Community school requirements.**

23 Community schools are required to comply with the following

1 provisions:

2 (1) Except as otherwise provided in this article, a community
3 school is exempt from statutory requirements established in this
4 chapter and chapters eighteen-a and eighteen-b of this code, from
5 rules of the state board and supervision by the superintendent not
6 specifically applicable to community schools. Community schools
7 are not exempt from other statutes applicable to public schools;

8 (2) A community school is accountable to the parents, the
9 public and the state, with the delineation of that accountability
10 reflected in the school's agreement. Strategies for meaningful
11 parent and community involvement shall be developed and implemented
12 by each school;

13 (3) A community school may not unlawfully discriminate in
14 admissions, hiring or operation;

15 (4) A community school shall be nonsectarian in all
16 operations;

17 (5) A community school may not advocate unlawful behavior;

18 (6) A community school is only subject to the laws and rules
19 as provided in this article;

20 (7) A community school shall participate in any state
21 assessment and accountability program conducted under article two-e
22 of this chapter and shall cooperate with the office of education
23 performance audits which shall annually conduct an on-site review

1 of the school;

2 (8) A community school shall provide a minimum of one hundred
3 eighty days of instruction or nine hundred hours per year of
4 instruction. This subdivision does not preclude the use of computer
5 and satellite linkages for delivering instruction to students; and

6 (9) Trustees of a community school are public officials.

7 **§18-5D-7. Board of trustees.**

8 (a) (1) Each school shall be operated by a board of trustees.
9 The board consists of the president of the county board of
10 education and one other board member elected by the board of
11 education, and the dean of the school of education of the
12 university or college and two other members appointed by the
13 president of the university or college. Within thirty days after
14 all the members representing the board of education and the
15 university or college are appointed they shall jointly appoint two
16 additional members. One of the additional members shall be a
17 parent of a child enrolled in a public school in the county where
18 the community school is proposed to be located. The other
19 additional member shall be either, a teacher employed by the county
20 board of education who is teaching in a public school in the county
21 where the community school is proposed to be located or, a retired
22 teacher residing in that county.

23 (2) After the students who will be attending the community

1 school are selected and the teachers who will be teaching in the
2 community school are selected, the board of trustees shall jointly
3 appoint two additional members. One of the additional members
4 shall be a parent of a child who will attend the community school.
5 The other additional member shall be a teacher who will be employed
6 to teach in the community school.

7 (b) The president of the county board of education and the
8 dean of the school of education serve as cochairs for as long as
9 they remain in their positions. The members elected from the board
10 of education serve for terms of four years or until they are no
11 longer on the board of education, whichever occurs first. They may
12 be reappointed. The members appointed by the president shall serve
13 for four-year terms. If the president appoints a person to serve
14 on the board of trustees because the person holds a particular
15 position with the university or college, the person serves only as
16 long as he or she holds the position. All additional board members
17 serve terms of four years or until they fail to qualify, as
18 provided in subsection (a) of this section, whichever occurs first.
19 Members receive no compensation for their service on the board,
20 but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred as a member
21 of the board.

22 **§18-5D-8. Powers of board of trustees.**

23 (a) The board of trustees of a community school has the

1 responsibility for the operation of the school and the authority to
2 decide matters related to its operation, including, but not limited
3 to, budgeting, curriculum and operating procedures, subject to the
4 school's agreement. The board may employ, discharge and contract
5 with necessary professional and nonprofessional employees subject
6 to the school's agreement and the provisions of this article.

7 (b) The board of trustees is a public body as that term is
8 used in article one, chapter twenty-nine-b of this code, and a
9 governing body as that term is used in article nine-a, chapter six
10 of this code.

11 **§18-5D-9. Establishment of community school; pilot project.**

12 (a) A community school, beginning in a school year prior to
13 the school year starting in 2016, may only be established by West
14 Virginia University or Marshall University, or both.

15 (b) A community school may only be established by creating a
16 new school.

17 (c) An application to establish a community school shall be
18 submitted to the county board of education where the community
19 school will be located by November 15 of the school year preceding
20 the school year in which the community school will be established,
21 except that for a community school beginning in the school year
22 starting in 2014, an application must be received by July 1, 2014.

23 (d) Within forty-five days of receipt of an application, the

1 county board of education in which the proposed community school is
2 to be located shall hold at least one public meeting on the
3 provisions of the community school application. The meeting is
4 subject to article nine-a, chapter six of this code. At least
5 forty-five days shall transpire between the first public meeting
6 and the final decision of the board on the community school
7 application, except that for a community school beginning in the
8 school year starting in 2015, only thirty days are required to
9 transpire between the first public hearing and the final decision
10 of the board.

11 (e) (1) Not later than seventy-five days after the first
12 public meeting on the application, the county board of education
13 shall grant or deny the application. For a community school
14 beginning in the school year starting in 2014, the county board of
15 education shall grant or deny the application no later than thirty
16 days after the first public hearing.

17 (2) A community school application submitted under this
18 article shall be evaluated by the county board of education based
19 on criteria, including, but not limited to, the following:

20 (A) The demonstrated, sustainable support for the community
21 school plan by teachers, parents, other community members and
22 students, including comments received at the public hearing held
23 under subsection (d) of this section;

1 (B) The capability of the community school, in terms of
2 support and planning, to provide comprehensive learning experiences
3 to students pursuant to the adopted agreement;

4 (C) The extent to which the application considers the
5 information requested in section ten of this article and conforms
6 to the legislative intent outlined in section two of this article;
7 and

8 (D) The extent to which the community school may serve as a
9 model for other public schools.

10 (3) A community school application is approved by the county
11 board of education of a county upon affirmative vote by a majority
12 of all the members. Formal action approving or denying the
13 application shall be taken by the county board of education at a
14 public meeting, with notice or consideration of the application
15 given by the board, under article nine-a, chapter six of this code.

16 (4) Written notice of the board's action shall be sent to the
17 university or college. If the application is denied, the reasons
18 for the denial including a description of deficiencies in the
19 application shall be clearly stated in the notice sent by the
20 county board of education to the university or college.

21 (f) At the option of the university or college a denied
22 application may be revised and resubmitted to the county board of
23 education. When an application is revised and resubmitted to the

1 county board of education, the board may schedule additional public
2 hearings on the revised application. The board shall consider the
3 revised and resubmitted application at the first board meeting
4 occurring at least forty-five days after receipt of the revised
5 application by the board. For a revised application resubmitted
6 for a community school desiring to begin in the school year
7 starting in 2014, the board shall consider the application at the
8 first board meeting occurring at least thirty days after its
9 receipt. The board shall provide notice of consideration of the
10 revised application under the provisions of article nine-a, chapter
11 six of this code.

12 **§18-5D-10. Contents of application.**

13 An application to establish a community school shall include
14 all of the following information:

15 (1) The identification of the community school applicant;

16 (2) The name of the proposed community school;

17 (3) The grade or age levels served by the school;

18 (4) A description of how parental participation will be
19 encouraged in the planning and the operation of the community
20 school;

21 (5) The agreement and education goals of the community school,
22 the curriculum to be offered and the methods of assessing whether
23 students are meeting educational goals;

1 (6) The admission policy and criteria for evaluating the
2 admission of students which shall comply with the requirements of
3 section thirteen of this article;

4 (7) Procedures which will be used regarding the suspension or
5 expulsion of pupils. The procedures shall comply, as applicable,
6 with section eight, article eight of this chapter and section
7 one-a, article five, chapter eighteen-a of this code;

8 (8) Information on the manner in which community groups will
9 be involved in the community school planning process;

10 (9) The financial plan for the community school and the
11 provisions which will be made for auditing the school under article
12 nine, chapter six of this code;

13 (10) Procedures which shall be established to review
14 complaints of parents regarding the operation of the community
15 school;

16 (11) A description of and address of the physical facility in
17 which the community school will be located and the ownership of the
18 facility and any lease arrangements;

19 (12) Information on the proposed school calendar for the
20 community school, including the length of the school day and school
21 year consistent with the provisions of section fifteen, article
22 eight of this chapter;

23 (13) The proposed faculty and a professional development plan

1 for the faculty of the community school; and

2 (14) Whether any agreements have been entered into or plans
3 developed with the county board of education regarding
4 participation of the community school students in extracurricular
5 activities within the county. Notwithstanding any provision to the
6 contrary, a county of residence may not prohibit a student of a
7 community school from participating in any extracurricular activity
8 of that county of residence if the student is able to fulfill all
9 of the requirements of participation in the activity and the
10 community school does not provide the same extracurricular
11 activity.

12 **§18-5D-11. Term and form of agreement.**

13 Upon approval of a community school application under section
14 nine of this article, a written agreement shall be developed which
15 shall contain the provisions of the community school application.
16 This written agreement, when approved by the county board of
17 education and the community school's board of trustees acts as
18 legal authorization for the establishment of a community school.
19 This written agreement is legally binding on both the county board
20 of education and the community school's board of trustees. The
21 agreement shall be for a period of not less than three, nor more
22 than five years, and may be renewed for five-year periods upon
23 reauthorization by the county board of education.

1 **§18-5D-12. Facilities.**

2 The community school facility is exempt from public school
3 facility rules, except those pertaining to the health or safety of
4 the pupils.

5 **§18-5D-13. Enrollment.**

6 (a) All resident children in this state qualify for admission
7 to a community school within the provisions of subsection (b) of
8 this section. If more students apply to the community school than
9 the number of attendance slots available in the school, then
10 students shall be selected on a random basis by the board of
11 trustees from a pool of qualified applicants meeting the
12 established eligibility criteria and submitting an application by
13 the deadline established by the community school. The community
14 school may give preference in enrollment to a child of a parent who
15 has actively participated in the development of the community
16 school and to siblings of students who are presently, or were
17 previously, enrolled in the community school.

18 (b) (1) A community school may not discriminate in its
19 admission policies or practices, except as provided in subdivision
20 (2) of this subsection, on the basis of intellectual ability,
21 athletic ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, status as a
22 person with a disability, proficiency in the English language or
23 any other basis that would be illegal if used by a county board of

1 education.

2 (2) A community school may limit admission to a particular
3 grade level.

4 **§18-5D-14. School staff.**

5 (a) The board of trustees shall determine the level of
6 compensation and all terms and conditions of employment of the
7 staff, except as may otherwise be provided in this article.
8 Professional staff members of a community school shall hold
9 appropriate state certification, as determined by the board of
10 trustees.

11 (b) Each community school application shall list the general
12 qualifications needed to staff any noncertified positions.

13 (c) All employees of a community school shall participate in
14 the teachers' defined contribution retirement system, provided in
15 article seven-b of this chapter, to the same extent as if they were
16 employees of the county board of education. Except, that employees
17 transferring from a county board of education shall participate in
18 the retirement system they participated in as an employee of the
19 board of education. The community school shall make any required
20 employer's contribution to the county board of education's
21 retirement plan.

22 (d) Every employee of a community school shall be provided the
23 same health care benefits as the employee would be provided if he

1 or she were an employee of the county board of education. The
2 community school shall make any required employer's contribution to
3 the county board of education's health plan.

4 (e) Any public school employee offered employment at a
5 community school, by its board of trustees, may request a leave of
6 absence from the employing county board of education for up to five
7 years in order to work in a community school. Approval for a leave
8 may not be unreasonably withheld.

9 (f) Temporary professional employees on leave from a county
10 board of education may accrue tenure in the noncommunity public
11 school system the same as they would under article two, chapter
12 eighteen-a of this code if they had continued to be employed by
13 that county. Professional employees on leave from a county board
14 of education retain their continuing contract status rights, as
15 defined in article two, chapter eighteen-a of this code, in the
16 school entity from which they came. A temporary professional
17 employee or professional employee may not have tenure rights as
18 against a community school. Both temporary professional employees
19 and professional employees continue to accrue seniority in the
20 school entity from which they came if they return to that school
21 entity when the leave ends.

22 (g) Any temporary professional employee or professional
23 employee who leaves employment at a community school has the right

1 to return to a comparable position for which the person is
2 properly certified in the school entity which granted the leave of
3 absence.

4 (h) Subsection (d), section fifteen-c, article five of this
5 chapter applies to community schools. The community school shall
6 obtain the information required by that subsection on all
7 individuals who will have direct contact with students prior to
8 accepting them for a position with the community school.

9 **§18-5D-15. Funding for community schools.**

10 (a) Funding for a community school shall be provided in the
11 following manner:

12 (1) There may be no tuition charge for a resident student
13 attending a community school.

14 (2) The community school shall receive for each student
15 enrolled no less than the budgeted total expenditure per average
16 daily membership of the prior school year. This amount shall be
17 paid by the county board of education in the county of residence of
18 the community school.

19 (3) A community school may request the county board of
20 education in which the community school is located to provide
21 services to assist the community school to address the specific
22 needs of special education and exceptional students.

23 (4) Payments shall be made to the community school in twelve

1 equal monthly payments, by the fifth day of each month, within the
2 operating school year. A student enrolled in a community school
3 shall be included in the average daily membership of the student's
4 county of residence for the purpose of providing education funding
5 payments pursuant to article nine-a of chapter eighteen of this
6 code. If a county board of education fails to make a payment to a
7 community school as prescribed in this clause the superintendent
8 shall deduct the amount, as documented by the community school,
9 from any and all state payments made to the county board of
10 education after receipt of documentation from the community school.

11 (b) The state board shall provide temporary financial
12 assistance to a county board of education due to the enrollment of
13 students in a community school who attended a nonpublic school in
14 the prior school year in order to offset the additional costs
15 directly related to the enrollment of those students in a public
16 community school. The state board shall pay the county board of
17 education of the county of residence of a student enrolled in a
18 nonpublic school in the prior school year who is attending a
19 community school an amount equal to the county board of education
20 of the county of residence's basic education subsidy for the
21 current school year divided by the county's average daily
22 membership for the prior school year. This payment may occur only
23 for the first year of the attendance of the student in a community

1 school starting with the school year beginning in 2014. Total
2 payments of temporary financial assistance to county board of
3 educations on behalf of a student enrolling in a community school
4 who attended a nonpublic school in the prior school year shall be
5 limited to funds appropriated for this program in a fiscal year.
6 If the total of the amount needed for all students enrolled in a
7 nonpublic school in the prior school year who enroll in a community
8 school exceeds the appropriation for the temporary financial
9 assistance program, the amount paid to a county board of education
10 for each qualifying student shall be pro rata reduced. Receipt of
11 funds under this subsection do not preclude a county board of
12 education or state university or college from applying for funding
13 grants.

14 (c) The state board, with funds appropriated by the
15 Legislature and other available funds, shall create a grant program
16 to provide temporary transitional funding to a county board of
17 education due to the budgetary impact relating to any student
18 attending a community school. A county board of education that
19 approves a community school may apply for a grant under this
20 subsection. The state board shall develop criteria which shall
21 include, but not be limited to, the overall fiscal impact on the
22 budget of the county board of education resulting from students of
23 a county attending a community school. The criteria shall be

1 published in the State Register. Payments under this subsection
2 shall be made for the first year of operation of the community
3 school.

4 (d) A community school may receive, hold, manage and use,
5 absolutely or in trust, any devise, bequest, grant, endowment, gift
6 or donation of any property, real or personal and mixed or both
7 real and personal, which is made to the community school for any of
8 the purposes of this article.

9 (e) A trustee of a community school, or any board of trustees
10 of a community school, or any other person affiliated in any way
11 with a community school may not demand or request, directly or
12 indirectly, any gift, donation or contribution of any kind from any
13 parent, teacher, employee or any other person affiliated with the
14 community school as a condition for employment or enrollment or
15 continued attendance of any pupil. Any donation, gift or
16 contribution received by a community school shall be given freely
17 and voluntarily.

18 **§18-5D-16. Transportation.**

19 Students who reside in the county in which the community
20 school is located shall be provided transportation to the community
21 school on the same terms and conditions as transportation is
22 provided to students attending the schools of the county.

23 **§18-5D-17. Tort liability.**

1 (a) For purposes of tort liability, employees of the community
2 school are considered public employees and the board of trustees is
3 considered the public employer in the same manner as political
4 subdivisions and local agencies.

5 (b) The Board of Risk and Insurance Management shall provide
6 adequate liability and other appropriate insurance for a community
7 school, its employees and the board of trustees of the community
8 school. The community school is responsible for the cost of the
9 insurance.

10 **§18-5D-18. Annual reports and assessments.**

11 (a) The county board of education shall annually assess
12 whether each community school is meeting the goals of its agreement
13 and shall conduct a comprehensive review prior to granting a five-
14 year renewal of the agreement. The county board of education shall
15 have reasonable access to the records and facilities of the
16 community school to ensure that the community school is in
17 compliance with its agreement and this article and that
18 requirements for testing, civil rights and student health and
19 safety are being met.

20 (b) In order to facilitate the county board of education's
21 review, each community school shall submit an annual report no
22 later than August 1 of each year to the county board of education
23 and the superintendent.

1 (c) Five years following the effective date of this article,
2 the superintendent shall contract with an independent professional
3 consultant with expertise in public and private education. The
4 consultant shall receive input from members of the educational
5 community and the public on the community school program. The
6 consultant shall submit a report to the superintendent, the
7 Governor and the Joint Committee on Government and Finance and an
8 evaluation of the community school program, which shall include a
9 recommendation on the advisability of the continuation,
10 modification, expansion or termination of the program and any
11 recommendations for changes in the structure of the program.

12 **§18-5D-19. Causes for nonrenewal or termination.**

13 (a) During the term of the agreement or at the end of the term
14 of the agreement, the county board of education may choose to
15 revoke or not to renew the agreement based on any of the following:

16 (1) One or more material violations of any of the conditions,
17 standards or procedures contained in the written agreement approved
18 pursuant to section eleven of this article;

19 (2) Failure to meet any requirements for student performance
20 set forth in, or promulgated under, article two-e, chapter eighteen
21 of this code or failure to meet any performance standard set forth
22 in the written agreement approved pursuant to section eleven of
23 this article;

1 (3) Failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal
2 management or audit requirements;

3 (4) Violation of this article; or

4 (5) Violation of any provision of law from which the community
5 school has not been exempted, including federal laws and
6 regulations governing children with disabilities.

7 (b) A member of the board of trustees who is convicted of a
8 felony or any crime involving moral turpitude is immediately
9 disqualified from serving on the board of trustees.

10 (c) Any notice of revocation or nonrenewal of an agreement
11 given by the county board of education shall state the grounds for
12 the action with reasonable specificity and give reasonable notice
13 to the board of trustees of the community school of the date on
14 which a public hearing concerning the revocation or nonrenewal will
15 be held. The county board of education shall conduct the hearing,
16 present evidence in support of the grounds for revocation or
17 nonrenewal stated in its notice and give the community school
18 reasonable opportunity to offer testimony before taking final
19 action. Formal action revoking or not renewing a community school
20 agreement requires an affirmative vote by a majority of all members
21 of the county board of education at a public meeting after the
22 public has had thirty days to provide comments to the board.

23 (d) When a community school agreement is revoked or is not

1 renewed, the community school shall be dissolved.

2 (e) When a community school agreement is revoked or is not
3 renewed, a student who attended the community school shall apply to
4 another public school in the student's county of residence. Normal
5 application deadlines will be disregarded under these
6 circumstances. All student records maintained by the community
7 school shall be forwarded to the county board of education in which
8 the student resides.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to authorize public universities and colleges with an accredited education program to operate public schools in cooperation with the local county board of education. The bill establishes a pilot project allowing only West Virginia University and Marshall University to operate public schools in cooperation with the Monongalia and Cabell County Boards of Education for school years beginning prior to 2016. The bill authorizes public colleges or universities to sponsor community schools in cooperation with county boards of education. The bill provides short title. The bill states legislative intent. The bill provides definitions. The bill states powers of community schools and requirements. The bill provides for boards of trustees and their powers. The bill establishes pilot projects. The bill sets forth the content of an application for a community school. The bill requires a written agreement between a county board and the community school board. The bill provides exemption from public schools facility rules. The bill provides for enrollment. The bill provides for school staff and students. The bill requires a county board of education to fund each community school in its county. The bill provides for the transportation of students. The bill establishes tort liability of community schools. The bill requires annual reports and assessments. The bill provides causes for nonrenewal or termination.

This article is new; therefore, strike-throughs and underscoring have been omitted.