

SB 1448

Sacramento, CA  
(Sacramento Co.)  
Sacramento Bee  
(Cir. D. 233,290)  
(Cir. S. 274,100)

JUN 9 - 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888



## CAPITOL DIGEST

### The Senate *E54 p. A3*

#### PASSED

■ SB 1448, by Sen. Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, which would let teachers set up new "charter schools" within the public school system that would be free of standard rules and structure. The bill, approved on a 21-6 vote, now goes to the Assembly.

■ SB 1538, by Sen. Quentin Kopp, ind.-San Francisco, which would revise and strengthen the state's open-meeting law. The measure, passed on a 22-8 vote, advances to the Assembly.

#### CONFIRMED

■ Nancy Gutierrez, 51, of Sherman Oaks as Gov. Wilson's director of the state Department of Fair Employment and Housing. The vote was 29-0. Gutierrez earns \$83,868 per year.

■ Julie Wright, 47, of Sacramento, as Wilson's director of the Department of Commerce. The vote was 29-0. Wright earns \$95,052 per year.

■ Robert Martinez, 44, of Sacramento, as director of the Department of Economic Opportunity. The vote was 29-0. Martinez earns \$88,056 per year.

### Miscellany

**Open the process** — The public interest group Common Cause urged Gov. Wilson to rescind his order to Cabinet secretaries and department heads not to appear before the Assembly-Senate budget conference committee. Wilson issued the order last week, saying a public airing of proposed cuts would hinder chances for a budget agreement. But Lisa Foster, executive director of Common Cause, said it "runs contrary to basic democratic principles."

**Hayden gains** — Assemblyman Tom Hayden of Santa Monica increased his narrow lead over a veteran state senator as tabulation of late absentee and other uncounted ballots continued in the 23rd Senate District Democratic primary. Hayden went from a 277-vote to a 453-vote advantage over Sen. Herschel Rosenthal of Los Angeles, with an unknown number of ballots yet to be counted, according to the Los Angeles County registrar of voters. Laura Cohen, Hayden's deputy chief of staff, said Hayden was not yet declaring victory.

— Compiled by Jon Matthews,  
Bee Capitol Bureau

SB 1448

Oxnard, CA  
(Ventura Co.)  
Press-Courier  
(Cir. D. 19,715)  
(Cir. S. 20,476)

JUN 6 - 1992

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Charter school bill advances to Assembly

A bill to authorize the creation of "charter schools" designed to allow public-school educators more flexibility in teaching has passed the California Senate and is on its way to the Assembly, the bill's sponsor said Friday.

Sen. Gary K. Hart, D-Santa Barbara, said charter schools would have more flexibility because they would be freed from existing statutes and regulations covering school districts and from "sometimes cumbersome, public-school, bureaucratic rules and structure."

However, the schools would be required to maintain health and safety standards for pupils and staff, to operate as non-sectarian entities, to be open to all students regardless of ethnic or religious background, Hart said. They would not be allowed to charge tuition.

"Although many of our public schools do an outstanding job of educating students, there are still a large percentage of our students who are failing and who tune out at school," Hart said. "The current approach in our public schools is not working for all our students and it's time to look at alternative ways in which we can create a stimulating and positive school environment for our children."

SB 1448

San Luis Obispo, CA  
(San Luis Obispo Co.)  
Telegram-Tribune  
(Cir. 5xW. 26,163)

JUN 5 - 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

## Senate OKs creation of 100 charter schools

*E 54 (PA9)*

SACRAMENTO (AP) — The state Senate has approved creation of up to 100 so-called charter schools, a step supporters said would bring more innovation to the classroom.

"It's an opportunity for some locally designed reform," said one supporter, Sen. Tim Leslie, R-Carmelien Bay.

The Senate, by a 21-6 vote Thursday, sent the Assembly a bill by Sen. Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, that would allow up to 100 charter schools in California.

Hart said charter schools would operate free from many of the rules and regulations now imposed by the state. "A charter school is basically run the way the teachers would like to see it run, with approval of the school board," he said.

Anyone could circulate petitions to establish a charter school. The petitions would have to be signed by not less than 10 percent of the teachers in a district or by at least half the teachers at a proposed school.

A charter petition would have to say how the school would be run, outline education goals and include other required information.

Bill supporters described charter schools as an alternative to vouchers that give parents a certain amount of money to pay for education at the school of their choice.

5B 1448

Porterville, CA  
(Tulare Co.)  
Recorder  
(Cir. 6xW. 13,451)

JUN 5 - 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

## Senate OKs creation of innovative schools

SACRAMENTO (AP) — The state Senate has approved creation of up to 100 so-called charter schools, a step supporters said would bring more innovation to the classroom.

"It's an opportunity for some locally designed reform," said one supporter, Sen. Tim Leslie, R-Carmelien Bay.

The Senate, by a 21-6 vote Thursday, sent the Assembly a bill by Sen. Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, that would allow up to 100 charter schools in California. No more than 10 of the schools could be in one school district.

Hart said charter schools would operate free from many of the rules and regulations now imposed by the state.

"A charter school is basically run the way the teachers would like to see it run, with approval of the school board," he said.

Anyone could circulate petitions to establish a charter school. The petitions would have to be signed by not less than 10 percent of the teachers in a district or by at least half of the teachers at a proposed charter school.

The school board would have to hold a hearing on the proposal within 60 days of receiving the petition to determine the level of employee and parental support for such a school.

A charter petition would have to say how the school would be run, outline education goals and include other required information.

Sen. Ralph Dills, D-Gardena, suggested that the legislation could lead to weaker collective bargaining rights and lower salaries for some teachers and encourage creation of a voucher system.

But Hart said teachers would have the final say on any changes in collective bargaining. "If teachers believe in collective bargaining, that would be part of their charter proposal," he said.

Bill supporters also described charter schools as an alternative to vouchers that give parents a certain amount of money to pay for education at the school of their choice.

Critics say vouchers could cripple the public school system by enabling more students to enroll in private schools.

SB 1448

Roseville, CA  
(Placer Co.)  
Press Tribune  
(5xW. 15,400)

JUN 5 - 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

## Senate approves innovative schools

Sacramento *E-54*

The state Senate has approved creation of up to 100 so-called charter schools, a step supporters said would bring more innovation to the classroom.

"It's an opportunity for some locally designed reform," said one supporter, Sen. Tim Leslie, R-Carmelien Bay.

The Senate, by a 21-6 vote Thursday, sent the Assembly a bill by Sen. Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, that would allow up to 100 charter schools in California. No more than 10 of the schools could be in one school district.

Hart said charter schools would operate free from many of the rules and regulations now imposed by the state.

50 1448

Marysville, CA  
(Yuba Co.)  
Appeal-Democrat  
(Cir. 6xW. 23,500)

JUN 6 - 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

### Charter school bill wins Senate OK

SACRAMENTO (AP) <sup>ES4 (PART)</sup> The state Senate has approved creation of up to 100 so-called charter schools, a step supporters said would bring more innovation to the classroom.

"It's an opportunity for some locally designed reform," said one supporter, Sen. Tim Leslie, R-Roseville.

The Senate, by a 21-6 vote, sent the Assembly a bill by Sen. Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, that would allow up to 100 charter schools in California. No more than 10 of the schools could be in one school district.

Hart said charter schools would operate free from many of the rules and regulations now imposed by the state.

Anyone could circulate petitions to establish a charter school. The petitions would have to be signed by not less than 10 percent of the teachers in a district or by at least half of the teachers at a proposed charter school.

The school board would have to hold a hearing on the proposal within 60 days of receiving the petition to determine the level of employee and parental support for such a school.

A charter petition would have to say how the school would be run, outline education goals and include other required information.

Bill supporters also described charter schools as an alternative to vouchers that give parents a certain amount of money to pay for education at the school of their choice.

58 11118  
SB 1448

Alhambra, CA  
(San Luis Obispo Co.)  
News  
(Cir. D. 10,850)

JUN 1 2 1992

El Centro, CA  
(Imperial Co.)  
Imperial Valley Press  
(Cir. D. 10,850)

JUN 5 - 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

### Senate OKs 100 charter schools

SACRAMENTO (AP) — The state Senate has approved creation of up to 100 so-called charter schools, a step supporters said would bring more innovation to the classroom.

"It's an opportunity for some locally designed reform," said one supporter, Sen. Tim Leslie, R-Carmelien Bay.

The Senate, by a 21-6 vote Thursday, sent the Assembly a bill by Sen. Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, that would allow up to 100 charter schools in California. No more than 10 of the schools could be in one school district.

Hart said charter schools would operate free from many of the rules and regulations now imposed by the state.

"A charter school is basically run the way the teachers would like to see it run, with approval of the school board," he said.

Anyone could circulate petitions to establish a charter school.

EST 1888

SB 1448

Atascadero, CA  
(San Luis Obispo Co.)  
News  
(Cir. 2xW. 6,450)

JUN 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

## Hart's charter school bill passes California Senate

Legislation by Senator Gary K. Hart (D-Santa Barbara) to authorize the creation of "charter schools" passed the State Senate recently. SB 1448 passed by a vote of 21 to six.

These innovative public schools would be initiated by a group of teachers, who obtain a "charter" from a local school board or the State Board of Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction. Under the terms of the charter, the specific goals and operating procedures for the school would be spelled out in the agreement between the board and the organizers, but in exchange for committing to the principles outlined in the petition, the school could be freed from the existing, sometimes cumbersome, public school bureaucratic rules and structure.

'Charter schools will provide teachers with the opportunity to

create new public schools which are teacher, parent and community-initiated and outcome-based," Hart said. "This approach will maintain our traditional democratic commitment to public schools while providing new and exciting educational opportunities to parents and pupils."

The charter schools could be exempted from existing statutes and regulations covering school districts to allow maximum flexibility in achieving high educational outcomes. However, they would be required to maintain health and safety standards for pupils and staff, operate as nonsectarian entities, be open to all students irrespective of ethnicity, national origin, gender or disability and prohibited from charging tuition.

"Although many of our public schools do an outstanding job of

educating students, there are still a large percentage of our students who are failing and who "tune out" at school," Hart said. "The current approach in our public schools is not working for all of our students and it's time to look at alternative ways in which we can create a stimulating and positive school environment for our children."

SB 1448 now goes to the Assembly.

E54 (P2)

SB 1448

Camarillo, CA  
(Ventura Co.)  
Daily News  
(Cir. D. 11,500)

JUN 10 1992

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

### School bill passes

<sup>E-54 123</sup>  
Legislation by state Sen. Gary K. Hart, D-Santa Barbara, to authorize the creation of "charter schools" passed the state Senate Monday night. SB 1448 passed by a vote of 21 to 6.

These innovative public schools would be initiated by a group of teachers, who obtain a "charter" from a local school board or the state Board of Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Under the terms of the charter, the specific goals and operating procedures for the school would be spelled out in the agreement between the board and the organizers, but in exchange for committing to the principles outlined in the petition, the school could be freed from the existing, sometimes cumbersome, public school bureaucratic rules and structure, Hart said.

"Charter schools will provide teachers with the opportunity to create new public schools which are teacher, parent and community-initiated and outcome-based," Hart said. "This approach will maintain our traditional democratic commitment to public schools while providing new and exciting educational opportunities to parents and pupils."

The "charter schools" could be exempted from existing statutes and regulations covering school districts to allow maximum flexibility in achieving high educational outcomes.

SB 1448 now goes to the state Assembly.

SB 1448

Lompoc, CA  
(Santa Barbara Co.)  
Lompoc Record  
(Cir. D. 10,008)  
(Cir. S. 10,240)

JUN 7 - 1992

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Hart's bill that calls for charter schools passes

ES4 p9A-12

SACRAMENTO (AP) — The state Senate has approved creation of up to 100 so-called charter schools, a step supporters said would bring more innovation to the classroom.

"It's an opportunity for some locally designed reform," said one supporter, Sen. Tim Leslie, R-Carnelian Bay.

The Senate, by a 21-6 vote Thursday, sent the Assembly a bill by Sen. Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, that would allow up to 100 charter schools in California. No more than 10 of the schools could be in one school district.

Hart said charter schools would operate free from many of the rules and regulations now imposed by

the state.

"A charter school is basically run the way the teachers would like to see it run, with approval of the school board," he said.

Anyone could circulate petitions to establish a charter school. The petitions would have to be signed by not less than 10 percent of the teachers in a district or by at least half of the teachers at a proposed charter school.

The school board would have to hold a hearing on the proposal within 60 days of receiving the petition to determine the level of employee and parental support for such a school.

SB 1448

SB 1448

Moorpark, CA  
(Ventura Co.)  
Moorpark News  
(Cir. W. 1,600)

JUN 18 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

# Charter school bill passes Senate

E-54 p 2

Legislation by Sen. Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, to authorize the creation of "charter schools" passed the State Senate recently by a vote of 21 to 6.

The innovative public schools would be initiated by a group of teachers who obtain a "charter"

from a local school board or the State Board of Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Under the terms of the charter, the specific goals and operating procedures for the school would be spelled out in the agreement between the board and the organizers, but in exchange for committing to the principles outlined in the petition, the school could be freed from the existing, sometimes cumbersome, public school bu-

reaucratic rules and structure, Hart stated.

"Charter schools will provide teachers with the opportunity to create new public schools which are teacher, parent and community-initiated and outcome-based," Hart stated. "This approach will maintain our traditional democratic commitment to public schools while providing new and exciting educational opportunities to parents and pupils."

The charter schools could be

exempted from existing statues and regulations covering school districts to allow maximum flexibility in achieving high educational outcomes. However, they would be required to maintain health and safety standards for pupils and staff, operate as nonsectarian entities, be open to all students irrespective of ethnicity, national origin, gender or disability and prohibited from charging tuition.

SB 1448 now goes to the Assembly.

SB 1448

Escondido, CA  
(San Diego Co.)  
Daily Times Advocate  
(Cir. D. 47,500)  
(Cir. S. 49,000)

Senate  
100 innovative schools

JUN 5 - 1992

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

**Senate approves 100 innovative new schools**

ES 54 (AS)  
SACRAMENTO

The state Senate has approved creation of up to 100 so-called charter schools, a step supporters said would bring more innovation to the classroom.

"It's an opportunity for some locally designed reform," said one supporter, Sen. Tim Leslie, R-Carnelian Bay.

The Senate, by a 21-6 vote Thursday, sent the Assembly a bill by Sen. Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, that would allow up to 100 charter schools in California. No more than 10 of the schools could be in one school district.

Hart said charter schools would operate free from many of the rules and regulations now imposed by the state.

5B 1448

San Jose, CA  
Phone: 408-298-1234  
Fax: 408-298-1234

JUN 5 1992

A small,  
friendly  
school

Sonora, CA  
(Tuolumne Co.)  
Union Democrat  
(Cir. 5xW. 11,000)

JUN 5 - 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

## Senate OK's creation of 100 innovative schools

E-54 page 5A

SACRAMENTO — The Senate has approved creation of up to 100 so-called charter schools, a step supporters said would bring more innovation to the classroom.

The Senate, by a 21-6 vote, sent the Assembly a bill by Sen. Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, that would allow up to 100 charter schools in California. No more than 10 of the schools could be in one school district.

Hart said charter schools would operate free from many of the rules and regulations now imposed by the state.

"A charter school is basically run the way the teachers would like to see it run, with approval of the school board," he said.

Anyone could circulate petitions to establish a charter school. The petitions would have

to be signed by not less than 10 percent of the teachers in a district or by at least half of the teachers at a proposed charter school.

The school board would have to hold a hearing on the proposal within 60 days of receiving the petition to determine the level of employee and parental support for such a school.

A charter petition would have to say how the school would be run, outline education goals and include other required information.

Sen. Ralph Dills, D-Gardena, suggested that the legislation could lead to weaker collective bargaining rights and lower salaries for some teachers and encourage creation of a voucher system.

JUN 15 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

# A small, friendly school

**I**T'S NOT a private school, but it's getting there: Berryessa Middle School, "the alternative school of choice," was the idea of six Morill Middle School teachers who wanted to create a small, friendly, challenging school with "autonomy, clarity of mission, effective leadership, teacher professionalism and team cooperation," as John Chubb and Terry Moe describe effective schools in "Politics, Markets and Schools."

The Berryessa school board approved the 150-student school in May. Twice that many applied, with more parents calling daily, prompting plans to expand to 186. "Parents not selected in the lottery have been coming to my classroom and breaking into tears," says Robert Wright, a veteran teacher in the district. "It's like H. Ross Perot. People are so dissatisfied with the public schools they're willing to try anything."

Parents who sign up reflect the mostly middle-class, multi-ethnic population of the district, with somewhat more blacks and fewer Filipino applicants. They tend to be the most involved parents, and their children tend to

“People are so dissatisfied with the public schools they're willing to try anything.”

— Robert Wright

be the best students.

While the new school won't get any extra money from the district, parents have volunteered to donate money and hold fund-raisers, says Wright. "We're going to wind up with more money for field trips. The parents are excited. They think they're getting a private school without paying for it, so they're willing to contribute."

Next year, Wright hopes to sign up Berryessa as a "charter school," under legislation introduced by Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin, D-Union City, and Sen. Gary K. Hart, D-Santa Barbara, to exempt up to 100 schools from many state rules.

Charter schools, organized and run by teachers, with a minimum of administrative regulation, are sometimes seen as an alternative to school vouchers, but Wright's eventual goal is to use vouchers, when available, "to go completely private. I think there's no hope for public education."

— Joanne Jacobs

Solvang, CA  
(Santa Barbara Co.)  
Santa Ynez Valley News  
(Cir. W. 6,000)

MAY 7 - 1992

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

# Senator Hart shares views on education issues

By Carol Rossetti  
EDUCATION EDITOR

8-54 PFM

A proposal to allow parents to choose which school their child will attend has not garnered the support of State Senator Gary Hart.

"It represents a contradiction in terms providing a subsidy to the unregulated private market," Hart claims.

In an interview with *Santa Ynez Valley News* Hart discussed his view on the parental choice initiative, among other topics.

"I do, however, favor a choice in schools," said Hart. "Parents should not be locked in to the closest school if it doesn't fit their child's needs."

As an alternative to the voucher system, Hart has authored SB 1448 — Charter Schools. This bill establishes a procedure whereby credentialed teachers can petition school district trustee boards to operate charter schools.

A charter school might specialize in education for the gifted, math and science, or creative and performing arts, among others.

In this all-volunteer program, parents could choose the school for their children and teachers could choose to teach at a particular school.

"This would solve the problems concerning subsidies of private schools," said Hart. "While at the same time providing parents a choice to meet their children's needs."

Hart also favors more rigorous assessment of student performance, a key to which is allowing the test system to be open-ended, moving away from the multiple choice tests and more toward questions that require writing

skills. "It is much less time consuming to stay with the multiple choice questions that can be graded by a machine," said Hart. "However, this is not the best way to assess the children's learning. We will need to train the teachers to give the tests, develop evaluation techniques and then give feedback to the teachers."

An overwhelming concern is with the number of children entering kindergarten without some very basic skills. In a poll of kindergarten teachers, the response was that over 50 percent need parent education.

"We would like to see parents educated as to what their children should know prior to kindergarten entrance," said Hart. "It is really important to the child's success."

Hart is also responsible for SB 119 — Higher Education Bond. This bond places a \$900 million bond act on the June, 1992 ballot (Proposition 153) to provide funds to meet growing enrollments on existing campuses, remodel existing buildings and allow for construction of laboratories and library expansion on UC, CSU and community college campuses.

"Without the passage of this bond, the high tech and research activities will come to a halt," said Hart. "This would seriously impair our ability to compete."

Regarding AIDS education, Hart believes it is very important but also wants parents to continue to have the right to choose if their child should participate in the program and that 90 percent or parents do want instruction.

"The state is now calling condom use 'safer' rather than 'safe,'" said Hart. "Each parent must give an okay for their child to get a condom."

SB 1448  
SB 1448

Paso Robles, CA  
(San Luis Obispo Co.)  
Press  
(Cir. 5xW. 4,977)

MAY 5 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

## Trustee

## group E54(P1) elects

Victor Malzahn of the Coast Union High School Board of Education was de-installed and Gaye Galvan of Atascadero and a member of the County Board of Education has been installed as president of the County School Boards Association at the annual spring meeting of the organization at the Embassy Suites Hotel in San Luis Obispo.

Approximately 70 school board members from around the county including representatives from Paso Robles, Shandon, Pleasant Grove, San Miguel and Atascadero attended the event, elected a slate of officers for 1992-4 and heard State Senate Education Committee Chairman Senator Gary K. Hart of Santa Barbara discuss such issues and his proposals.

Also installed as new officers were President-elect Stuart McElhinney, Vice President Betty Nielsen, Recording Secretary Linda Shephard, Corresponding Secretary Dee Lacey and Treasurer Pat Stevens.

A special resolution was presented to 24th District PTA representatives for their part in working with the School Boards Association in behalf of legislative matters in 1991.

Hart opined that some things were looking a little better for education in 1992 since Governor Wilson "... is not attempting to suspend Proposition 98 ... regarding budgeting this year ... but the \$4 billion budget 'hole' is really more like \$10 billion!"

"The proposed voucher plan will in effect be a \$1 billion subsidy in California or \$2,500 per student." He reported that the voucher initiative signatures are being certified and proponents have until mid-June to qualify for the November ballot.

Hart described his alternative "Charter School" proposal as in part a response to the voucher plan, and "... the 100 school experiment has guidelines such as you can't charge tuition, can't discriminate, no religion and CAT tests must be given."

Hart expressed support for lowering the 66.7 percent requirement to 50 percent for approving school bond measures.

"The Senate approves the concept but not the Assembly! This Governor now also approves, but not one Assembly Republican will cross over," Hart said.

SB 1448

Paso Robles, CA  
(San Luis Obispo Co.)  
Paso Robles Country  
News  
(Cir. W. 11,900)

APR 22 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

**Charter schools bill  
passes in Senate**

Legislation by Senator Gary K. Hart (D-Santa Barbara) to authorize the creation of charter schools passed the Senate Education Committee earlier this month by a vote of 6 to 5.

Charter schools, as outlined in SB 1448, are public institutions initiated by teachers who obtain a "charter" from a local school board, or the state board and the superintendent of public instruction.

Under the terms of the charter, the specific goals and operating procedures for the school would be spelled out in the agreement between the board and the organizers, but in exchange for committing to the principles outlined in the petition, the school could be freed from the existing, sometimes cumbersome, public school bureaucratic rules and structure. And while charter schools could be exempted from existing statutes and regulations covering school districts to allow for maximum flexibility in achieving high educational outcomes, they would be required to maintain health and safety standards for pupils and staff, operate as nonsectarian entities, be open to all students irrespective of ethnicity, national origin, gender or disability and prohibited from charging tuition.

The bill now goes before the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 1448  
SB 1448

Atascadero, CA  
(San Luis Obispo Co.)  
News  
(Cir. 2xW. 6,450)

APR 17 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

## Senate's education committee authorizes the creation "Charter Schools"

ES4 (pp6)

Legislation by Senator Gary K. Hart (D-Santa Barbara) to authorize the creation of "charter schools" passed the Senate Education Committee recently. SB 1448 passed by a vote of 6 to 5.

These innovative public schools would be initiated by a group of teachers, who obtain a "charter" from a local school board or the State Board of Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction. Under the terms of the charter, the specific goals and operating procedures for the school would be spelled out in the agreement between the board and the organizers, but in exchange for committing to the principles outlined in the petition, the school could be freed from the existing, sometimes cumbersome, public school bureaucratic rules and structure.

"The charter school approach is an exciting and bold alternative to providing educational services to students within the public school system," Hart said. "It will offer teachers new professional opportunities to be fully responsible for the learning program at the school site."

The charter schools could be exempted from existing statutes and regulations covering school districts to allow maximum flexibility in achieving high educational outcomes. However, they would be required to maintain health and safety standards for pupils and staff, operate as nonsectarian entities, be open to all students irrespective of eth-

nicity, national origin, gender, or disability and prohibited from charging tuition.

"I believe that many public schools do an outstanding job of educating students. However, too large a percentage of our students are failing and are disillusioned by school," Hart said. "It's obvious that the 'business as usual' approach in our public schools is not working for all of our students and it's time to look at alternative ways in which we can create a stimulating and positive school environment for our children."

SB 1448

March 24  
State Office Building  
Fresno  
CA 93701

APR 15 1992

# Eas...ishes plan for "charter schools"

Paso Robles, CA  
(San Luis Obispo Co.)  
North Co. Journal &  
Templeton Advance  
(Cir. W. 7,139)

APR 15 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

## Charter School bill E54(P5) passes committee

Legislation by Senator Gary K. Hart (D-Santa Barbara) to authorize the creation of "charter schools" passed the Senate Education Committee Wednesday. SB 1448 passed by a vote of 6 to 5.

These innovative public schools would be initiated by a group of teachers, who obtain a "charter" from a local school board or the State Board of Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction, Hart said. Under the terms of the charter, the specific goals and operating procedures for the school would be spelled out in the agreement between the board and the organizers, but in exchange for committing to the principles outlined in the petition, the school could be freed from the existing, sometimes cumbersome, public school bureaucratic rules and structure.

"The charter school approach is an exciting and bold alternative to providing educational services to students within the public school system," Hart said. "It will offer teachers new professional opportunities to be fully responsible for the learning program at the school site."

The charter schools could be exempted from existing statutes and

regulations covering school districts to allow maximum flexibility in achieving high educational outcomes. However, they would be required to maintain health and safety standards for pupils and staff, operate as nonsectarian entities, be open to all students irrespective of ethnicity, national origin, gender, or disability and prohibited from charging tuition.

"I believe that many public schools do an outstanding job of educating students. However, too large a percentage of our students are failing and are disillusioned by school," Hart said. "It's obvious that the 'business as usual' approach in our public schools is not working for all of our students and it's time to look at alternative ways in which we can create a stimulating and positive school environment for our children."

Hart added, "The charter school approach represents a major education reform which I believe can invigorate and may liberate our existing system to produce creative new approaches to educating children, while maintaining our traditional democratic commitment to public schools."

SB 1448 now goes to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

SB 1448

Milpitas, CA  
(Santa Clara Co.)  
Post  
Cir. W. 18,050)

APR 15 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

# Eastin pushes plan for "charter schools"

*State assembly committee has approved her bill for innovative schools outside of current school systems.*

by JEFF BARBOSA *ESY*

A bill that would allow parents, teachers and administra-

*(p. 10)*  
tors to get together and create a charter school, free of the bureaucracy that critics say hampers public education, has passed one Assembly committee with

bipartisan support and a similar bill is in the state Senate.

AB 2585, called "revolutionary" by its author, Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin, D-Fremont, is designed to "break the cycle of failure" that has plagued some public schools in California and provide a framework where people can pledge to achieve certain educational goals in specific time periods. With more flexibility and exemptions from many existing statutes, the new charter schools would have more freedom, but would still be required to teach the state curriculum courses. Without a change, more of the students in poor schools will "go down the drain," Eastin said.

State Sen. Gary Hart has introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Eastin's bill was supported by the Assembly Education Committee recently and sent to the Ways and Means Committee. It is supported by Ways and Means Chairman John Vasconcellos.

School districts or the county superintendent of education would review the schools to ensure that they are meeting the goals set forth in their charters, explained Eastin, the chairwoman of the Assembly Education Committee. A charter school could be created within a school district or outside of one.

Giving an example of the latter, Eastin said San Jose State University could set up a school on campus with credentialed teachers to help potential dropouts and create a charter, specifying the standards it will meet. The county superintendent would oversee such a school, she said.

Charter schools would not require additional public funds, Eastin said, because instead of going to the typical public school, money would go to the charter schools instead.

"It's a zero-sum game," she said.

If the schools are successful, Eastin hopes more districts would move to create additional charters. She also thinks the new concept can be placed into the schools without creating division among educators and administrators across the state.

"It doesn't have to," Eastin said. "In New York, in Rochester schools where I saw it — it didn't."

Schools with many at-risk students are the targets of the bill, she noted.

Although there are differences between the Hart and Eastin bills (the Senate bill doesn't require teacher credentials), the Assemblywoman expects both their names to be on the final proposal.

"We are not in competition," she said. "We really feel comfortable working together."

SB 1449

APR 3 - 1992

Yreka, CA  
(Siskiyou Co.)  
Siskiyou Daily News  
(Cir. 5x4.5, 320)

APR 9 - 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

## School choice attacked

<sup>254</sup>  
SACRAMENTO (AP) — Supporters of a plan to set up charter schools renewed their attack on a school-choice initiative, saying it would ruin public schools by shifting funds to private schools.

"This deceptive initiative ... would pull the plug on the state's educational system," Assemblywoman Delain Eastin, a Union City Democrat, said Wednesday.

Starting in 1993, if the school-choice measure makes the November ballot and voters pass it, students who moved from public to private schools would take with them credit vouchers — each worth at least \$2,500, an amount equal to half the annual cost of educating a child in public school.

The school-choice proposal would allow children to attend any public school in the state, regardless of where they live.

Opponents of the initiative said it

could bankrupt education because it would transfer badly needed public funds to private schools that can discriminate based on religion and gender. Meanwhile, the vouchers would not fully cover private school tuitions, foes said.

Supporters, including some businesses and church leaders, said the initiative would create healthy competition, forcing bad schools out of business and allowing good schools to flourish.

Eastin and Sen. Gary Hart of Santa Barbara, Democrats who chair the education committees in their legislative houses, are the authors of the charter-school measures which face their first legislative tests.

The measures would essentially allow teachers to run a school, largely freed from government regulation, in exchange for an even stricter academic regime.

The education of our children is the business of education

SB 1448  
7/1/92

# THE BUSINESS OF EDUCATION

## The education of our children critical for a successful economy

In this final installment of The Business of Education, business leaders look at trends and new developments in how business is addressing fundamental, long-term education issues.

Responding to requests from schools superintendent Ray Cortines, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce has embarked on several projects to bring business expertise to challenges facing the school district.

"Education is an integral part of achieving the Chamber's mission," stated Karen Schafer, the Chamber's education chairperson. "We must have an educated work force to achieve our goal of attracting, retaining and developing business in San Francisco."

KQED President Tony Tiano is chairing the Chamber's Long Range Planning Committee on Education. "We're meeting with various business sectors to determine their interests and identify resources to contribute to San Francisco school," Tiano said.

"Private business doesn't have the luxury of sitting on non-performing assets," explained Charles Moore of McGuire Realty. Moore is organizing residential and commercial real estate professionals to evaluate surplus properties and make recommendations on how to use the district's real estate. "We hope to give the School Board an objective, business perspective of what the alternatives are," he added.

Superintendent Cortines also requested support to develop a long-term financial

plan for the district. Such a plan could guide the district towards a more financially healthy future and reduce decisions made for political reasons. David Fagin, former president of Homestake Mining Co., and Steve Mayer of Burr, Pilger and Mayer have been investigating the feasibility of developing this kind of business plan.

"School boards are an ideal avenue for bringing a business perspective to our schools," declared Steven Glick, Bay Area Council's vice president of education and training. As a new board member of the Burlingame School District, Glick recently attended a new training program which prepared him to make tough decisions on school budgets, personnel and curriculum. Presented by the California School Boards Association and sponsored by Wells Fargo and Rockwell International, the training program gives first-term board members the tools to be effective policymakers.

Glick found the training to be "first rate." He believes that "if companies encouraged employees to participate on school boards, we could have a profound impact on education."

Strengthening the teaching profession has been identified as a strategic goal for improving education. However, with current budget cuts, professional development programs are often forfeited.

Access to Training is a business response to this Catch-22 dilemma. Launched later this month, this nationwide

*[Faded, illegible text from the reverse side of the page]*

San Francisco, CA  
Chamber of Commerce  
Business Times  
P.O. Box 32,000

APR 3 - 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

pilot effort is being coordinated by the Bay Area Council. Nineteen Bay Area employers are making available seats in their corporate training classes to educators at no cost. A catalog lists companies offering a wide range of computer, management and professional development classes.

Through Access, teachers, counselors and administrators can update skills, be exposed to business, keep abreast of technology developments and learn manage-

## EDUCATION ISSUES

MARIANNE LARNED

*"If companies encouraged employees to participate on school boards, we could have a profound impact on education."*

— STEVEN GLICK  
BAY AREA COUNCIL

ment methods to improve school operations. "Our program aims to coordinate efforts regionally, encourage involvement by other firms, and foster participation through distribution of the catalog," explains Glick.

School choice is being considered by many states as a local tool for major education reform.

At a recent Commonwealth Club luncheon, Sam Ginn, Pacific Telesis chairman and CEO, commented on school choice and the voucher system, a controversial school funding approach. "Right now the voucher system would be a shock to the education system — like allowing the ruble to float against world currency," Ginn stated. "We need a couple of transition steps so we don't cause short-term severe dislocation," he added.

Charter schools are one alternative to the voucher system — as HMOs are in making health care choices. Under legislation proposed by Sen. Gary Hart and Assemblywoman Delaine Easton, teachers could apply to run their own schools, bypassing bureaucratic regulations and receiving funds to manage them locally.

In return, teachers would create a five-year plan and sign a charter making them accountable for measurable goals, including fiscal and student performance. "Charter schools are the first step on the road to an open system of educational

choice," said Ginn. "They reward teachers and schools by trading regulations for results," he added.

Encouraging this kind of school autonomy is part of the combined "Vision for Education" expressed by the California Business Roundtable, California Chamber of Commerce and the Industry Education Council of California. And if their California Design Team is selected from the 686 New American Schools Development Corporation (NASDC) proposals, five California school districts will be funded to incorporate this approach at their schools.

Their design plan proposes changes in "... public schooling so that students will be engaged in optimal learning environments, schools will be organized as high-performance work places and the system will be governed as an entrepreneurial enterprise that rewards excellence."

As the Bay Area's largest employer, Kaiser Permanente faces a continuing shortage of technically trained workers. Historically, the company has supported "transition to work" programs like Inroads and Oakland Youthworks, and developed clinical affiliations with hundreds of community colleges.

Under the new leadership of CEO and Vice Chairman David Lawrence, Kaiser is now looking at how it can contribute to basic education reform. Because of his family's teaching legacy, his own liberal arts background and international experience, Lawrence has given a lot of thought to education. His concern is that business involvement in education may place too much attention on competence, testing and standards. Lawrence believes "We must struggle to balance the educational process with a product which achieves excellence and incorporates the richness of cultural diversity." He adds, "If we look only at the short term, success-oriented goals and benefits, we may miss the real prize — an educated society, prepared to explore different viewpoints and adapt to rapid changes."

This is my final column in this series. I would like to thank Chevron for its support in bringing this information to the readers of the Business Times. And Chevron would like to thank you for your support.

"We are proud to have sponsored The Business of Education series featuring successful partnerships with local schools, their communities and Bay Area companies," said Chevron Vice President Rod Hartung. "We have been encouraged by the ingenuity and resourcefulness we have seen and are confident that our local schools are beginning to receive the support they so desperately need," he added.

SB 1448

San Luis Obispo, CA  
(San Luis Obispo Co.)  
Telegram-Tribune  
(Cir. 5xW. 26,163)

APR 2 - 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

## Statewide, school choice debate heats up

*E 54(P1)*  
SACRAMENTO (AP) — Supporters of a plan to set up charter schools have renewed their attack on a school-choice initiative, saying it would ruin public schools by shifting funds to private schools.

"This deceptive initiative ... would pull the plug on the state's educational system," Assemblywoman Delain Eastin, a Union City Democrat, said Wednesday.

Starting in 1993, if the school-choice measure makes the November ballot and voters pass it, students who moved from public to private schools would take with them credit vouchers — each worth at least \$2,500, an amount equal to half the annual cost of educating a child in public school.

The school-choice proposal would allow children to attend any public school in the state.

Opponents of the initiative said it could bankrupt education because it would transfer badly needed public funds to private schools that can discriminate based on religion and gender. Meanwhile, the vouchers would not fully cover private school tuitions, foes said.

Supporters, including some businesses and church leaders, said the initiative would create healthy competition, forcing bad schools out of business and allowing good schools to flourish.

Eastin and Sen. Gary Hart of Santa Barbara, Democrats who chair the education committees in their legislative houses, are the authors of the charter-

school measures which face their first legislative tests.

The measures would essentially allow teachers to run a school, largely freed from government regulation, in exchange for an even stricter academic regime.

The Senate Education Committee ran out of time to consider Hart's measure Wednesday and put off action a week.

Eastin's bill was pending in the Assembly Education Committee.

Under the charter system, teachers could win permission from a local school board to run a school for five years, based on a charter that details strict programs and standards. The school would still receive public funds but would be freed from much regulation.

Arroyo Grande, CA  
(San Luis Obispo Co.)  
Five Cities Times  
Press Recorder  
(Cir. 2xW. 17,200)

MAR 27 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

sb 1448  
ghm qc

# Bills would create 'charter schools' that bypass rules

SACRAMENTO — Sen. Gary K. Hart, D-Santa Barbara, and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin, D-Fremont, announced legislation to authorize the creation of "charter schools."

The legislation that would create the schools are dubbed Senate Bill 1448 and Assembly Bill 2585.

These new and innovative public schools would be established by a team of qualified experts, primarily teachers, who obtain a "charter" from a local school board or the State Board of Education and the superintendent of public instruction, said a Hart spokesman.

The charter would allow the team to establish and maintain schools which would operate independently from the existing, sometimes cumbersome, public school bureaucratic rules and structure, the spokesman said.

Hart and Eastin chair the education committees in their respective houses of the Legislature.

The legislators indicated that although the content of their bills differ somewhat, they each plan to make legislation creating charter schools a top priority in the coming year.

"These 'charter schools' will provide parents and students with expanded educational opportunities within the public school system,"

will create new professional opportunities for teachers, including the ability to be fully responsible for the learning program at the school site."

Said Eastin, "Clearly some of California's public schools are broken and require fixing. It is time for us to create a different environment for public education — the factory school model is not working for all of our children."

The charter schools would be exempted from existing statutes and regulations to allow maximum flexibility in achieving high educational outcomes, they said.

However, the schools would be required to maintain health and safety standards for pupils and staff, operate as nonsectarian entities, be open to all students irrespective of ethnicity, national origin, gender, or

disability, and prohibited from charging tuition.

"I believe that the 'charter school' structure will provide educators with the impetus to create innovative and distinctive programs which focus on student outcomes," Eastin noted. "It allows us to do so without compromising the integrity of the California public education system."

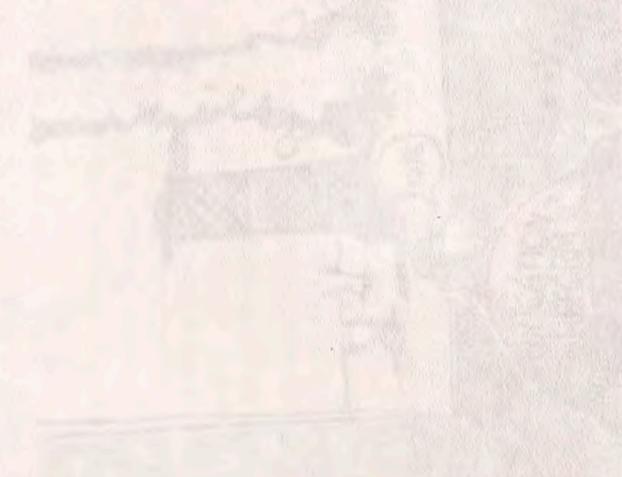
Hart added, "Many public schools

do an outstanding job of educating students. However, a large percentage of our students are failing miserably and are disillusioned by school, and their plight cries out for a bold departure and alternate ways of providing educational services.

"The 'charter school' approach would represent a major education reform which would stimulate and encourage such alternatives while

maintaining our traditional democratic commitment to public schools," he continued.

"Charter schools would send an important message to parents, teachers and the education community that there are new ways of operating schools that must be considered and that public schools can no longer be viewed as an exclusive franchise," Hart said.



to the Parents

# er to the Parents!

FG B5



**The Choice initiative would provide equal access to good schools, public and private, for all children—rich or poor.**

**By JOSEPH ALIBRANDI and KEVIN D. TEASLEY**

The Parental Choice in Education initiative is being circulated throughout the state for signatures to qualify it for November's ballot. When it qualifies, Californians will have the opportunity to assume leadership on the critical issue of education reform.

The initiative aims to improve all schools, public and private. It does so by giving all parents a choice of schools for their children. Parents could choose any public school for their child and would receive full state funding (about \$5,200 per child). Or they could choose a private school, in which case they would receive about \$2,600 from the state. The scholarship would be similar to the financial assistance provided by the GI Bill at the federal level or Cal Grants at the state level.

The initiative is not about public versus private, but about good versus bad. There are good public schools, but access to them is limited. This initiative would provide the public equal access to these and other good schools.

The initiative would achieve several goals that the education Establishment has long sought—parental involvement, school-based management, increased spending per child and smaller teacher-student ratios in the classroom. In addition, it would achieve several goals sought by parents, including accountability and a focus of attention on the classrooms.

The need for this initiative is obvious. For too long the public has waited for improvements in its education system; special committees, community groups and political task forces have made their respective proposals, but to no avail. Our schools are worse today than they were five or 10 years ago. No one denies this, not even the education Establishment.

In fact, because of the sad state of our schools, state Sen. Gary Hart and Assemblywoman Delaine Easton, chairs of their respective education committees, recently proposed the development of public "charter" schools (a key part of the parental choice initiative). Charter schools would be free of much of the public-school bureaucracy and allow teachers to concentrate on the classroom. Of course, the flaw in their proposal is that without some incentive for charter-school teachers, there is not

much hope that their plan will succeed.

In addition to the state of our public schools, there is the practical issue of how to meet the needs of more than 2 million new students by the year 2000. Under the current system, only one thing can result from this: increased personal taxation.

If private schools are encouraged to assist in meeting this challenge, the need for increased taxes could be avoided. Conversely, if private schools are not encouraged to bear some of these children's needs, the number of private schools may dwindle, dumping more students into our overloaded public schools, placing further stress on the system.

So why is the initiative controversial? Because it takes power and money from the few, the bureaucrats in Sacramento, and gives it to the many—parents and teachers. Instead of being forced to accept the proposals of faceless bureaucrats (or any special-interest group) in the future, parents would be able to choose a public or private school that serves their children's needs best.

The public should know that the "educrats" have written numerous letters praising the excellent programs of

only 10% send their children to private schools. Isn't this elitist? Why shouldn't all parents be extended the same choice?

The educrats don't want parents to have control. The fact that the initiative will result in education funding going toward a quality education, and for less money, escapes them. The children's education is not their first concern, money and power are.

The controversy has not stayed in the education Establishment. Many business leaders and educators, those who know competition brings excellence, are not willing to publicly support the initiative, not because it lacks merit but because they fear that they will be picketed or otherwise intimidated by the powerful teachers' union.

The educrats' strategy to defeat the initiative is to keep it from getting on the ballot. They have, to their credit, made the best use of their access to public schools by sending students home with statements against the initiative. In addition, they have requested that school boards statewide produce proclamations against the initiative.

It is no surprise that an organization that would deny parents the right to choose schools would also attempt to deny the public the right to vote on this issue.

Numerous parents of public- and private-school students and California taxpayers support the initiative. They support it for one reason: The money will go toward education, not a bureaucracy. No more politics. No more games with the children. Just education.

Some business leaders are backing the parental choice initiative. The Technology Leadership Council, a coalition of high-

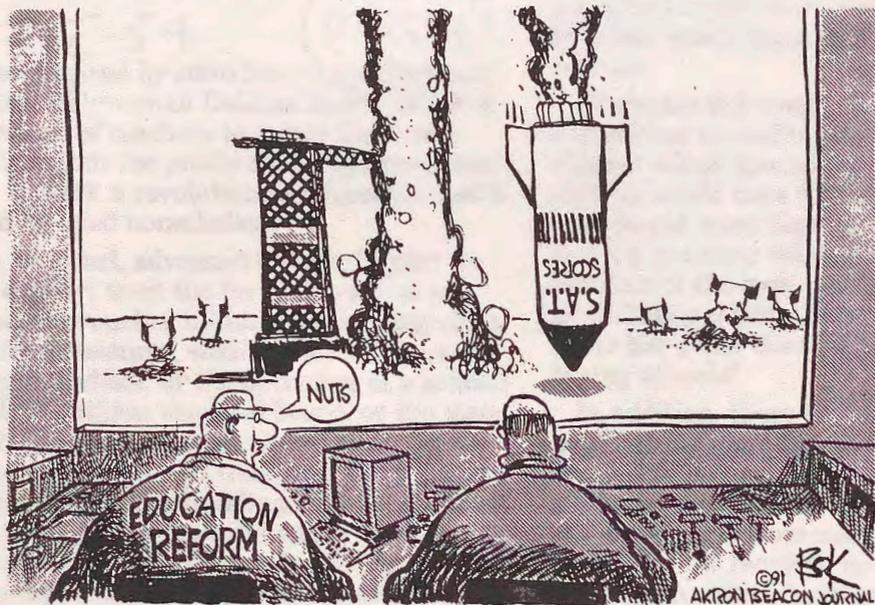
tech corporate leaders, has been very supportive, as have other industry executives, community leaders, parent groups and a broad coalition of those who feel we critically need to improve our intellectual capital.

And many public-school teachers favor the initiative. They support it because they know that it would free them from the bureaucracy and give them the opportunity to teach.

The public must not be duped by the Establishment. If all public schools are meeting the needs of our children, the truth will be told when parents have the right to choose.

In the final analysis, the public must address these simple questions: Are public schools better today than they were 5 or 10 years ago, after the many "reform" efforts and spending increases? Are we prepared to continue to put our trust in educrats when they tell us that they will fix the system? Finally, aren't parents better qualified to select and monitor their children's education than the educrats? Your answer will be reflected by the November election.

Joseph Alibrandi is chief executive officer and chairman of Whittaker Corp. and co-chairman of the Los Angeles-based ExCEL—the Excellence through Choice in Education League. Kevin D. Teasley is vice chairman of ExCEL.



**'Instead of being forced to accept the proposals of faceless bureaucrats (or any special-interest group) in the future, parents would be able to choose a public or private school that serves their children's needs best.'**

our state's many private schools. And public-school teachers have shown their high regard for the private schools, too, by sending their children to these schools. The percentage of public-school teachers who send their children to private schools is three times that of the public at large.

The parental choice initiative incorporates these fine schools into our educational funding and allows all parents to choose them. This breaks away from the current system in which, unless you are rich enough to pay twice for education—taxes and private school tuition—or move to a better neighborhood, you are trapped. Perhaps this is why the highest support for choice is among the poor and middle class.

Nearly 90% of California parents send their children to public schools;

Los Angeles, CA  
Los Angeles Times  
(Cir. D. 1,117,952)  
(Cir. S. 1,022,423)

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

MAR 2 - 1992

5B 1448

SB 1448

Fresno, CA  
(Fresno Co.)  
Bee  
(Cir. D. 144,800)  
(Cir. S. 170,400)

FEB 24 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

## The charter school alternative

■ It's a reform worth trying. Watch the educational bureaucrats try to torpedo it.

E-54 (p. B-4)

The proposal by state Sen. Gary Hart and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin to allow groups of teachers to create their own schools within the public school system is not likely to work a revolution in education, but it should be tried nonetheless.

The proposal, advanced at least in part to draw support from the far more radical private school voucher initiative now being circulated for signatures, would allow teachers at any public school, or the operators of a private school, to petition the local board, or the state board of education, to let them set up their own school and design their own program for it, either within the building where they now teach or by taking over the entire facility. The petition would have to specify the educational objectives the school hopes to achieve, the procedures it will use, and the means by which success will be judged.

Where such a charter is granted, the new school would be subject to monitoring to make certain the terms of the charter are observed but would otherwise be free of any administrative controls and regulations, provided that it's non-sectarian, doesn't discriminate and accepts all comers. The idea, ultimately, is to

foster innovative teaching, to let teachers escape stultifying school bureaucracies, and to evaluate the school on the results it produces. Funding would come entirely from public sources.

There are still major details to be worked out. Where an entire school chose to become a charter school specializing, say, in science, the district would have to find places for students who do not want that kind of specialization. But it's not clear what would happen if the teachers of the new school raised standards — as well they might. Could students who don't make the grade then be "dumped" into neighboring schools?

In addition, there are significant differences between the Hart and Eastin bills (SB1448 and AB2585, respectively). Hart's is probably the better proposal because it would exempt charter schools from many of the employment practices now required in the public schools, thereby providing far more flexibility, something the teachers unions vehemently oppose. Eastin would allow only credentialed teachers to teach.

Perhaps the most serious concern at this point, however, is that, as the proposals go through the Legislature, school bureaucracies will demand so many changes that the final plan will hardly be distinguishable from the rigid system the state has now.

SB 1448

Sacramento, CA  
(Sacramento Co.)  
Sacramento Bee  
(Cir. D. 233,290)  
(Cir. S. 274,100)

FEB 18 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

## The charter school alternative

<sup>ES40.84</sup>  
**T**he proposal by Sen. Gary Hart and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin to allow groups of teachers to create their own schools within the public school system is not likely to work a revolution in education, but it should be tried nonetheless.

The proposal, advanced at least in part to draw support away from the far more radical private school voucher initiative now being circulated for signatures, would allow teachers at any public school, or the operators of a private school, to petition the local board, or the state board of education, to let them set up their own school and design their own program for it, either within the building where they now teach or by taking over the entire facility. The petition would have to specify the educational objectives the school hopes to achieve, the procedures it will use, and the means by which success will be judged.

**W**here such a charter is granted, the new school would be subject to monitoring either by the state or the local district to make certain the terms of the charter are observed but would otherwise be free of any administrative controls and regulations, provided that it's non-sectarian, doesn't discriminate and accepts all comers. The idea, ultimately, is to foster innovative teaching, to let teachers escape stultifying school bureaucracies, and to evaluate the school on the results it produces. Funding would come entirely from public sources.

There are still major details to be worked out. Where an entire school chooses to be-

come a charter school specializing, say, in science, the district would have to find places for students who do not want that kind of specialization. But it's not clear what would happen if the teachers of the new school raised standards - as well they might. Could students who don't make the grade then be "dumped" into neighboring schools?

**I**n addition, there are significant differences between the Hart and Eastin bills (SB 1448 and AB 2585, respectively). Hart's is probably the better proposal because it would exempt charter schools from many of the employment practices now required in the public schools, thereby providing far more flexibility, something the teachers unions vehemently oppose. Eastin would allow only credentialed teachers to teach.

Hart's legislation says only 100 charter schools can be established in the state. But since teachers who petition for a charter must have the support of at least half the teachers in their schools, or 10 percent of the whole district, many of whom will fear any change, there's a question whether there will ever be even that many.

Perhaps the most serious concern at this point, however, is that, as the proposals go through the Legislature, school bureaucracies will demand so many changes that the final plan will hardly be distinguishable from the rigid system the state has now. That would be both a blow to the prospects for positive change and a major boost for the expensive and destructive voucher plan now moving toward the ballot.

SB 1448

Santa Maria, CA  
(Santa Barbara Co.)  
Santa Maria Times  
(Cir. D. 21,000)

FEB 13 1992

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

## Hart bill would create charter schools

Schools which would operate independently from the existing bureaucratic structure was the focus of legislation introduced this week by state Sen. Gary K. Hart.

Hart, D-Santa Barbara, and Assembly member Delaine Eastin, D-Fremont, introduced Senate Bill 1448 and Assembly Bill 2585, which would authorize the creation of "charter schools."

These new schools would be established by a team of teachers who would obtain a "charter" from a local school board or state Board of Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction.

"These 'charter schools' will provide parents and students with expanded educational opportunities within the public school system," Hart said. "At the same time the schools will create new professional opportunities for teachers, including the ability to be fully responsible for the learning program at the school site."

513 1448

Visalia, CA  
(Tulare Co.)  
Times Delta  
(6xW. 20,137)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

## 2 legislators propose charter schools system

SACRAMENTO — The calls for school reform broadened Tuesday with education leaders in the Legislature proposing a charter schools system that might be used to fight a school-choice ballot initiative.

Sen. Gary Hart of Santa Barbara and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin of Union City, Democrats who chair the education committees in their legislative houses, said the measures were not designed to derail the proposed school-choice or voucher initiative.

SB 1448  
SC

Palmdale, CA  
(Los Angeles Co.)  
Antelope Valley Press  
(Cir. D. 60,000)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

## Legislators weigh school charter plan

<sup>E-CA</sup>  
SACRAMENTO (AP) — The heads of the Legislature's education committees are proposing a charter schools system that may be used to fight a school-choice ballot initiative.

Sen. Gary Hart of Santa Barbara and Assemblywoman ~~Delaine Eastin~~ Eastin of Union City, Democrats who chair the education committees in their houses, said Tuesday that their proposals are not designed to derail the proposed school-choice or voucher initiative.

However, Hart said at a Capitol news conference that their legislation may become "strong ammunition" for educators and parents opposed to the voucher initiative.

At the very least, the lawmakers said, their charter-school bills will stir controversy, probably in the form of opposition from school boards.

"It's a bold departure. I'm sure there's some folks in the education community who are going to have real concerns," Hart said.

Under the charter system, teachers could win permission from a local school board to run a school for five years, based on a charter that details programs and standards. The school would still receive public funds but would be freed from much regulation.

Davis Campbell, executive director of the California School Boards Association, said in an interview that his organization does not oppose the concept of charter schools. "It's not particularly threatening, but we have to look at the mechanics of it," Campbell said.

Teachers seeking charters could team up with private, non-profit agencies. To propose creation of a charter school, backers would submit petitions signed by 10 percent of instructors in the district or 50 percent of teachers at a school.

If the school board rejected the proposal, petitioners could seek permission jointly from the state's Board of Education and

schools chief.

The bills would allow a maximum of 100 charters, which could be revoked by either the local board or the state.

Hart and Eastin, who acknowledged the system is similar to some limited programs already under way, said the charter schools would provide choices to parents and strengthen the public school system.

The legislators said the competing voucher initiative would provide choice only to those who can afford it, while dismantling the public school system. The measure is widely opposed by educators and parents.

The voucher initiative would allow students who moved to private schools to take with them credit vouchers worth at least \$2,500, an amount equal to half the annual cost of educating a child in public school.

The proposal also would allow children to attend any public school in the state.

SB 1448

Torrance, CA  
(Los Angeles Co.)  
Daily Breeze  
(Cir. D. 131,194)  
(Cir. S. 124,750)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

# Legislators hope bills will lead to innovative schools

By Thorne Gray

E-54 PAGE B-5

McCLATCHY NEWS SERVICE

SACRAMENTO — Two Democratic leaders on education issues introduced legislation Tuesday to let teachers, parents and others set up specially chartered innovative schools that would be free of many regulations as long as they met performance standards.

The measures, Senate Bill 1448 and Assembly Bill 2585, are designed to let teachers and parents improve the state's many failing school districts and would be an antidote to a school voucher initiative that is being circulated for the November ballot, the lawmakers said.

Sen. Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin, D-Union City, said their legislation would let teams of educators and others win charters from local school boards or the state to try out innovative education programs, either in separate schools or in classrooms within existing schools.

The lawmakers chair the education committees of the Senate and the Assembly, where they have had the charter school concept under study for more than a year.

They said the charter schools could be freed of many bureaucratic requirements that hamper innovation in the public school system and leave many public schools to fail miserably under "business as usual" administrators and teachers.

At the same time, Hart and Eastin said charter schools would be required to teach all children, not just the brightest, and they would continue to follow basic health and safety rules, curriculum requirements and anti-discrimination standards.

The proposal would be limited to no more than 100 or 200 schools while the bugs are worked out at first, but eventually would be available statewide.

Hart and Eastin said they envisioned schools that would be tailored to local demands.

EB 1448

El Centro, CA  
(Imperial Co.)  
Brawley News  
(Cir. D. 4,970)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

# Legislative leaders pose charter schools system

ESY PAGE A-10

SACRAMENTO (AP) — The heads of the Legislature's education committees are proposing a charter schools system that may be used to fight a school-choice ballot initiative. - Sen. Gary Hart of Santa Barbara and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin of Union City, Democrats who chair the education committees in their houses, said Tuesday that their proposals are not designed to derail the proposed school-choice or voucher initiative.

However, Hart said at a Capitol news conference that their legislation may become "strong ammunition" for educators and parents

opposed to the voucher initiative.

At the very least, the lawmakers said, their charter-school bills will stir controversy, probably in the form of opposition from school boards.

"It's a bold departure. I'm sure there's some folks in the education community who are going to have real concerns," Hart said.

Under the charter system, teachers could win permission from a local school board to run a school for five years, based on a charter that details programs and standards. The school would still receive public funds but would be freed from much

regulation.

Davis Campbell, executive director of the California School Boards Association, said in an interview that his organization does not oppose the concept of charter schools. "It's not particularly threatening, but we have to look at the mechanics of it," Campbell said.

Teachers seeking charters could team up with private, non-profit agencies. To propose creation of a charter school, backers would submit petitions signed by 10 percent of instructors in the district or 50 percent of teachers at a school.

If the school board rejected the proposal, petitioners could seek permission jointly from the state's Board of Education and schools chief.

The bills would allow a maximum of 100 charters, which could be revoked by either the local board or the state.

Hart and Eastin, who acknowledged the system is similar to some limited programs already under way, said the charter schools would provide choices to parents and strengthen the public school system.

The legislators said the competing voucher initiative would provide choice only to those who can afford it, while dismantling the public school system.

SB 1448

Redding, CA  
(Shasta Co.)  
Record-Searchlight  
(Cir.D.37,800)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

# Charter school system proposed

■ As a counter to vouchers, teachers could win approval to run a school for five years, based on a charter that details programs and standards.

SACRAMENTO (AP) — The heads of the Legislature's education committees are proposing a charter schools system that may be used to fight a school-choice ballot initiative.

Sen. Gary Hart of Santa Barbara and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin of Union City, Democrats who chair the education committees in their houses, said Tuesday that their proposals are not designed to derail the proposed school-choice or voucher initiative.

However, Hart said at a Capitol news conference that their legislation may become "strong ammunition" for educators and parents opposed to the voucher initiative.

At the very least, the lawmakers said, their charter-school bills will

stir controversy, probably in the form of school board opposition.

"It's a bold departure. I'm sure there's some folks in the education community who are going to have real concerns," Hart said.

Under the charter system, teachers could win permission from a local school board to run a school for five years, based on a charter that details programs and standards. The still-public school would receive public funds but be freed from much regulation.

Davis Campbell, executive director of the California School Boards Association, said in an interview that his organization does not oppose the concept of charter schools. "It's not particularly threatening, but we have to look at the mechanics of it."

Teachers seeking charters could team up with private, non-profit agencies. To propose creation of a charter school, backers would submit petitions signed by 10 percent of instructors in the district or 50 percent of teachers at a school. If the school board rejected the proposal, petitioners

could seek permission jointly from the state's Board of Education and schools chief.

The bills would allow a maximum of 100 charters, which could be revoked by either the local board or the state.

Hart and Eastin said the competing voucher initiative would provide choice only to those who can afford it, while dismantling the public school system. The measure is widely opposed by educators and parents.

The voucher initiative would allow students who moved to private schools to take with them credit vouchers worth at least \$2,500, an amount equal to half the annual cost of educating a child in public school.

The proposal also would allow children to attend any public school in the state, regardless of where they live.

Supporters say it would create healthy competition, forcing out bad schools and allowing good schools to flourish. They are trying to qualify the measure for the November ballot.

SB 1448 1448

Wilson Creek Co.  
(Office Code: 05)  
Centre Coast Times  
1741 G. 95,470  
(Gr. S. 92,800)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

San Jose, CA  
(Santa Clara Co.)  
Mercury-News  
(AM Edition)  
(Cir. D. 271,787)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

# School-charter plan proposed as voucher-alternative

## Delaine Eastin offers charter schools plan

Calls for school reform broadened Tuesday with education leaders in the Legislature proposing a charter schools system that may be used to fight a school-choice ballot initiative. Sen. Gary K. Hart of Santa Barbara and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin of Union City, Democrats who head the education committees in their legislative houses, said the measures are not designed to derail the pro-

posed school-choice or voucher initiative. Hart said, however, that their measures may become "strong ammunition" for educators and parents opposed to the voucher initiative. The legislators said the competing voucher initiative would provide choice only to those who can afford it, while dismantling the public school system.

By Thomas Gray  
SACRAMENTO — Two Democratic legislators introduced legislation Tuesday that would allow parents and others to open alternative schools that would be the same as long as they meet minimum standards. The measure, Assembly Bill 1448 and Senate Bill 1447, was introduced by Sen. Gary K. Hart, Santa Barbara Democrat, and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin, Union City Democrat. The measures would set up a system of charter schools that would be the same as long as they meet minimum standards. The measures would set up a system of charter schools that would be the same as long as they meet minimum standards.

They would include a letter from the state superintendent of education and a letter from the state superintendent of education. They would include a letter from the state superintendent of education and a letter from the state superintendent of education. They would include a letter from the state superintendent of education and a letter from the state superintendent of education.

SB 1448

Walnut Creek, CA  
(Contra Costa Co.)  
Contra Costa Times  
(Cir. D. 85,800)  
(Cir. S. 92,300)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

# School-charter plan proposed as voucher-initiative alternative

By Thorne Gray  
McClatchy News Service

SACRAMENTO — Two Democratic leaders on education issues introduced legislation Tuesday to let teachers, parents and others set up specially chartered innovative schools that would be free of many regulations as long as they meet performance standards.

Senate Bill 1448 and Assembly Bill 2585 are designed to let teachers and parents improve failing school districts and would be an antidote to a school voucher initiative being circulated for the November ballot, the lawmakers said.

Sen. Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin, D-Union City, said their legislation would let teams of educators and others win charters from local school boards or the state to try innovative education programs, either in separate schools or in present classrooms.

The lawmakers chair the education committees of the Senate and the Assembly, where they had been studying the charter school concept more than a year.

They said the charter schools could be freed of many bureaucratic requirements that hamper innovation in the public school system and leave many public schools to fail miserably under "business as usual" administrators and teachers.

At the same time, Hart and Eastin said charter schools would be required to teach all children, not just

the brightest, and they would continue to follow basic health and safety rules, curriculum requirements and anti-discrimination standards.

The proposal would be limited to no more than 100 or 200 schools while the bugs are worked out, but eventually would be available statewide.

Hart and Eastin said they envisioned schools tailored to local education demands and job markets, possibly without grades and employing more team teaching and other innovations that are proving themselves elsewhere.

"We think that the old factory model school has really outlived its usefulness," Eastin said.

Universities, private business and other entities could play a role in setting up such schools, but there still would be a public role in assuring accountability, Hart said.

"I think it's sound educationally," Hart said. "I think it also can be appropriate ammunition for those of us who are strongly opposed to the vouchers to show that there are alternative ways of organizing the public schools without providing a massive subsidy for private schools."

Gary Huckaby, a spokesman for the new Choice in Education League, said thousands of volunteers are gathering signatures to meet an April 27 deadline to qualify the privately financed voucher initiative for the November ballot.

SB 1448

Vista, CA  
(San Diego Co.)  
Vista Press  
(Cir. D. 8,000)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

# Legislative leaders pose school charter plan

Associated Press

E-54 PHCEAS

SACRAMENTO — The heads of the Legislature's education committees are proposing a charter schools system that may be used to fight a school-choice ballot initiative.

Sen. Gary Hart of Santa Barbara and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin of Union City, Democrats who chair the education committees in their houses, said Tuesday that their proposals are not designed to derail the proposed school-choice or voucher initiative.

However, Hart said at a Cap-

itol news conference that their legislation may become "strong ammunition" for educators and parents opposed to the voucher initiative.

At the very least, the lawmakers said, their charter-school bills will stir controversy, probably in the form of opposition from school boards.

"It's a bold departure. I'm sure there's some folks in the education community who are going to have real concerns," Hart said.

Under the charter system, teachers could win permission

from a local school board to run a school for five years, based on a charter that details programs and standards. The school would still receive public funds but would be freed from much regulation.

Davis Campbell, executive director of the California School Boards Association, said in an interview that his organization does not oppose the concept of charter schools. "It's not particularly threatening, but we have to look at the mechanics of it," Campbell said.

Teachers seeking charters

could team up with private, non-profit agencies. To propose creation of a charter school, backers would submit petitions signed by 10 percent of instructors in the district or 50 percent of teachers at a school.

If the school board rejected the proposal, petitioners could seek permission jointly from the state's Board of Education and schools chief.

The bills would allow a maximum of 100 charters, which could be revoked by either the local board or the state.

Hart and Eastin, who acknowledged the system is similar to some limited programs already under way, said the charter schools would provide choices to parents and strengthen the public school system.

The legislators said the competing voucher initiative would provide choice only to those who can afford it, while dismantling the public school system. The measure is widely opposed by educators and parents.

SB 1448

Temecula, CA  
(San Diego Co.)  
The Californian  
(SoWest Riverside Co.)  
(Cir. W. 5,874)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

# Students may get to choose their school

*E-54 PAGE A-5*  
■ EDUCATION: Plan called alternative to school voucher ballot initiative

ANN BANCROFT/San Francisco Chronicle

SACRAMENTO — The chairmen of the Legislature's two education committees proposed a radical overhaul of public education to allow parents and teachers to establish alternative "charter schools" within the public school system.

The proposals by state Senator Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin, D-Union City, provide a public school choice alternative to a controversial school voucher initiative being circulated for the November ballot. That plan, backed by conservatives and religious organizations, would subsidize students who attend private and religious schools.

Under the lawmakers' plan, introduced in separate but similar Senate and Assembly bills, two-thirds of the teachers and a majority of the parents at a public school could petition their board of education to change their school to a charter school.

The bills call for a limit of 100 charter schools statewide, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Teachers at charter schools would be allowed to design their educational programs to fit the needs of students, provided that basic state educational and performance standards were achieved.

SB 1448

Woodland Hills, CA  
(Los Angeles Co.)  
Daily News  
(Cir. D. 148,133)  
(Cir. S. 161,142)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

## Lawmakers urge plan for 'chartered schools'

By Ann Bancroft  
*San Francisco Chronicle*

E - J - Y

SACRAMENTO — The heads of the Legislature's two education committees proposed a radical overhaul of public education to allow parents and teachers to establish alternative "charter schools" within the public school system.

The proposals by state Sen. Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin, D-Fremont, provide a public-school choice alternative to the school voucher initiative being circulated for the November ballot. That plan, backed by conservatives and religious organizations, would subsidize students who attend private and religious schools.

Under the lawmakers' plan, introduced in separate but similar Senate and Assembly bills, two-

thirds of the teachers and a majority of the parents at a public school could petition their board of education to change their school to a charter school.

The bills call for a limit of 100 charter schools statewide, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Teachers at charter schools would be allowed to design their educational programs to fit the needs of students, provided that basic state educational and performance standards were achieved.

The schools would be required to admit all students eligible for public schools; to reflect the ethnic and racial population of the district; to be non-sectarian; and to be tuition-free.

"The old factory model school has really outlived its usefulness," Eastin said Tuesday.

SB 1448

Fresno, CA  
(Fresno Co.)  
Bee  
(Cir. D. 144,800)  
(Cir. S. 170,400)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

# Legislation would permit creation of chartered schools

■ Democratic education leaders say the plan would let teachers and parents improve the state's school districts.

By Thorne Gray  
Bee Capitol bureau

E-54 (P. A-3)

SACRAMENTO — Two Democratic leaders on education issues introduced legislation Tuesday to let teachers, parents and others set up specially chartered innovative schools that would be free of many regulations as long as they met performance standards.

The measures, Senate Bill 1448 and Assembly Bill 2585, are designed to let teachers and parents improve the state's many failing school districts and would be an antidote to a school voucher initiative that is being circulated for the November ballot, the lawmakers said.

Sen. Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin, D-Union City, said their measure would let teams of educators and others win charters from local school boards or the state to try innovative education programs, either in separate schools or in classrooms within schools.

The lawmakers lead the education committees of the Senate and the Assembly, where they have had the charter school concept under study for more than a year.

They said the charter schools could be freed of many bureaucratic requirements that hamper innovation in the public school system and leave many public schools to fail miserably under "business-as-usual" administrators and teachers.

At the same time, Hart and Eastin said charter schools would be required to teach all children, not just the brightest, and they would continue to follow basic health and safety rules, curriculum requirements and anti-discrimination standards.

The proposal would be limited to no more than 100 or 200 schools while the bugs are worked out, but eventually would be available statewide.

Hart and Eastin said they envisioned schools that would be tailored to local education demands and job markets, that might try doing without grades and that would employ more team teaching and other innovations that are used elsewhere.

"We think that the old factory model school has really outlived its usefulness," Eastin said. "We think that there is a lot more room to say to the professionals, 'Why don't you tell us how we can best communicate history and literature and politics and ecology and environment concerns?'"

Universities, private business and other entities could play a role in setting up such schools, but there would be a public role in assuring accountability, Hart said.

"I think it's sound educationally," Hart said. "I think it also can be appropriate ammunition for

those of us who are strongly opposed to the vouchers to show that there are alternative ways of organizing the public schools without providing a massive subsidy for private schools."

Gary Huckaby, a spokesman for the Choice in Education League, said thousands of volunteers are gathering signatures to meet an April 27 deadline to qualify the privately financed voucher initiative for the November ballot.

The proposal would basically give parents the right to send their children to any public, private or even religious school, in part at public expense.

Voucher backers were delighted to see Hart and Eastin endorse the idea of choice for parents, but doubted their approach would survive the legislative process, Huckaby said.

Neither Hart nor Eastin was endorsing the voucher initiative, however. They said the voucher proposal would impose no standards on private schools.

SB 1448

Sacramento, CA  
(Sacramento Co.)  
Union  
(Cir. D. 93,501)  
(Cir. S. 92,580)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

# Legislation would give teachers control at charter schools

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Calls for school reform broadened Tuesday with education leaders in the Legislature proposing a charter schools system that may be used to fight a school-choice ballot initiative.

Sen. Gary Hart of Santa Barbara and Assemblywoman Del-

aine Eastin of Union City, Democrats who chair the education committees in their legislative houses, said the measures are not designed to derail the proposed school-choice or voucher initiative.

Hart said at a Capitol news conference, however, that their

measures may become "strong ammunition" for educators and parents opposed to the voucher initiative. At the very least, the lawmakers said, their charter-school bills will stir controversy, probably in the form of opposition from school boards.

"It's a bold departure. I'm sure there's some folks in the

education community who are going to have real concerns," Hart said.

Under the charter system, teachers could win permission from a local school board to run a school for five years, based on a charter that details programs and standards. The school would still receive public funds

but would be freed from much regulation.

Davis Campbell, executive director of the California School Boards Association, said in an interview that his organization does not oppose the concept of charter schools. "It's not particularly threatening, but we have to look at the mechanics of it,"

Campbell said.

Teachers seeking charters would submit petitions signed by 10 percent of instructors in a district or 50 percent of teachers at a school.

These bills would allow a maximum of 100 charters, which could be revoked by either the local board or the state.

Antioch, CA  
(Contra Costa Co.)  
Daily Ledger-Post Dispatch  
(Cir. D. 21,923)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

## State briefs

### Teachers could run their schools

SACRAMENTO — The heads of the Legislature's education committees are proposing a charter schools system that may be used to fight a school-choice ballot initiative.

Sen. Gary Hart of Santa Barbara and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin of Union City, Democrats who chair the education committees in their houses, said Tuesday that their proposals are not designed to derail the proposed school-choice or voucher initiative.

Under the charter system, teachers could win permission from a local school board to run a school for five years, based on a charter that details programs and standards. The school would still receive public funds but would be freed from much regulation.

At the very least, the lawmakers said, their charter-school bills will stir controversy, probably in the form of opposition from school boards.

E-54 pg 5

2B 1448

Oakland, CA  
(Alameda Co.)  
Tribune  
(Cir. D. 152,739  
S. 156,163)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

## Legislators propose charter schools idea

*E-54 (page #9)*

By Steve Geissinger  
The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — The calls for school reform broadened yesterday with education leaders in the Legislature proposing a charter schools system that may be used to fight a school-choice ballot initiative.

Sen. Gary Hart of Santa Barbara and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin of Union City, Democrats who chair the education committees in their legislative houses, said the measures are not designed to derail the proposed school-choice or voucher initiative.

Hart said at a Capitol news conference, however, that their measures may become "strong ammunition" for educators and parents opposed to the voucher initiative. At the very least, the lawmakers said, their charter-school bills will stir controversy, probably in the form of opposition from school boards.

Under the charter system, teachers could win permission from a local school board to run a school for five years, based on a charter that details programs and standards. The school would still receive public funds but

would be freed from much regulation.

Davis Campbell, executive director of the California School Boards Association, said in an interview that his organization does not oppose the concept of charter schools. "It's not particularly threatening, but we have to look at the mechanics of it," Campbell said.

Teachers seeking charters could team up with private, non-profit agencies. They would submit petitions signed by 10 percent of instructors in the district or 50 percent of teachers at a school.

The bills would allow a maximum of 100 charters, which could be revoked by either the local board or the state.

The legislators, who acknowledged the system is similar to some limited programs already under way, said the charter schools would provide choices to parents and strengthen the public school system.

The legislators said the competing voucher initiative would provide choice only to those who can afford it, while dismantling the public school system. The measure is widely opposed by educators and parents.

SB 1448

Sacramento, Calif.  
Bee

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

# Plan by 2 Demos counters school voucher initiative

By Thorne Gray  
Bee Capitol Bureau

Two Democratic leaders on education issues introduced legislation Tuesday to let teachers, parents and others set up specially chartered innovative schools that would be free of many regulations as long as they meet performance standards.

The measures, SB 1448 and AB 2585, are designed to let teachers and parents improve the state's many failing school districts and would be an antidote to a school voucher initiative that is being circulated for the November ballot, the lawmakers said.

Sen. Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin, D-Union City, said their legislation would let teams of educators and others win charters from local school boards or the state to try out innovative education programs, either in separate schools or in classrooms within existing schools.

The lawmakers chair the education committees of the Senate and the Assembly, where they have had the charter school concept under study for more than a year.

They said the charter schools could be freed of many bureaucratic requirements that hamper innovation in the public school system and leave many public schools to fail miserably under "business as usual" administrators and teachers.

At the same time, Hart and Eastin said charter schools would be required to teach all children, not just the brightest, and they would continue to follow basic health and safety rules, curriculum requirements and anti-discrimination standards.

The proposal would be limited to no more than 100 or 200 schools while the bugs are worked out at first, but eventually would be available statewide.

Hart and Eastin said they envisioned schools that would be tailored

to local education demands and job markets, that might try doing without grades and that would employ more team teaching and other innovations that are proving themselves elsewhere.

"We think that the old factory model school has really outlived its usefulness," Eastin said. "We think that there is a lot more room to say to the professionals, 'Why don't you tell us how we can best communicate history and literature and politics and ecology and environment concerns?'"

Universities, private business and other entities could play a role in setting up such schools, but there would still be a public role in assuring accountability, Hart said.

"I think it's sound educationally," Hart said. "I think it also can be appropriate ammunition for those of us who are strongly opposed to the vouchers to show that there are alternative ways of organizing the public

schools without providing a massive subsidy for private schools."

Gary Huckaby, a spokesman for the newly formed Choice in Education League, said thousands of volunteers are gathering signatures to meet an April 27 deadline to qualify the privately financed voucher initiative for the November ballot.

The proposal would basically allow parents to send their children to any public, private or even religious school, in part at public expense.

Voucher backers were delighted to see Hart and Eastin endorse the idea of choice for parents, but doubted their approach would survive the legislative process, Huckaby said.

Neither Hart nor Eastin was endorsing the voucher initiative, however. They said the voucher proposal would impose no standards on private schools while leaving the public schools to follow all the rules on such matters as earthquake safety, desegregation, cleanliness and health.

SB 1448

Stockton, CA  
(San Joaquin Co.)  
Record  
(Cir. D. 53,400)  
(Cir. S. 57,200)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

# Legislators propose 'charter schools'

San Francisco Chronicle

SACRAMENTO — The leaders of the Legislature's two education committees have proposed a radical overhaul of public education to allow parents and teachers to establish alternative "charter schools" within the public school system.

The proposals by state Sen. Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin, D-Union City, provide a public school choice alternative to a con-

troversial school-voucher initiative being circulated for the November ballot. That plan, backed by conservatives and religious organizations, would subsidize students who attend private and religious schools.

Under the lawmakers' plan, introduced in separate but similar Senate and Assembly bills, two-thirds of the teachers and a majority of the parents at a public school could petition their board of education to change their school to a charter school.

The bills call for a limit of 100 charter schools statewide, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Teachers at charter schools would be allowed to design their educational programs to fit the needs of students. The schools would be required to admit all students eligible for public schools; to reflect the ethnic and racial population of the district; to be non-sectarian; and to be tuition-free.

"The old factory model school has really outlived its usefulness," Eastin said Tuesday.

SB 1448

Bakersfield, CA  
(Kern Co.)  
Californian  
(Cir. D. 81,600  
S. 88,600)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

# Bills propose charter schools

<sup>E-54 (P. A-3)</sup>  
Teachers would be own boss

SACRAMENTO (AP) — The calls for school reform broadened Tuesday with education leaders in the Legislature proposing a charter schools system that may be used to fight a school-choice ballot initiative.

Sen. Gary Hart of Santa Barbara and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin of Union City, Democrats who chair the education committees in their legislative houses, said the measures are not designed to derail the proposed school-choice or voucher initiative.

Hart said at a Capitol news conference, however, that their measures may become "strong ammunition" for educators and parents opposed to the voucher initiative. At the very least, the lawmakers said, their charter-school bills will stir controversy, probably in the form of opposition from school boards.

"It's a bold departure. I'm sure there's some folks in the education community who are going to have real concerns," Hart said.

Under the charter system, teachers could win permission from a local school board to run a school for five years, based on a charter that details programs and standards. The school would still receive public funds but would be freed from much regulation.

Davis Campbell, executive direc-

tor of the California School Boards Association, said in an interview that his organization does not oppose the concept of charter schools. "It's not particularly threatening, but we have to look at the mechanics of it," Campbell said.

Teachers seeking charters could team up with private, non-profit agencies. They would submit petitions signed by 10 percent of instructors in the district or 50 percent of teachers at a school.

If the school board rejected the proposal, petitioners could seek permission jointly from the state education board and schools chief.

The bills would allow a maximum of 100 charters, which could be revoked by either the local board or the state.

The legislators, who acknowledged the system is similar to some limited programs already under way, said the charter schools would provide choices to parents and strengthen the public school system.

The legislators said the competing voucher initiative would provide choice only to those who can afford it, while dismantling the public school system. The measure is widely opposed by educators and parents.

The voucher initiative would allow students who moved to private schools to take with them credit vouchers worth at least \$2,500.

5B 1448

Roseville, CA  
(Siverside Co.)  
Press Enterprise  
(Cir. 2. 140,000)  
(Cir. 2. 141,130)

Roseville, CA  
(Placer Co.)  
Press Tribune  
(Cir. 5xW. 15,400)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

### Legislators pose school charter plan

Sacramento

The heads of the Legislature's education committees are proposing a charter schools system that may be used to fight a school-choice ballot initiative.

Sen. Gary Hart of Santa Barbara and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin of Union City, Democrats who chair the education committees in their houses, said Tuesday that their proposals are not designed to derail the proposed school-choice or voucher initiative.

However, Hart said at a Capitol news conference that their legislation may become "strong ammunition" for educators and parents opposed to the voucher initiative.

They said the charter schools could be free of many bureaucratic requirements that hamper innovation in the public school system and leave many public schools in an inoperable under business in their administration and operation.

They said they would like to see the state take a more active role in the education system. "We think that the old factory model school has really evolved in technology," Eastin said. "We think that there is a lot more to be done in the public schools. Why don't you tell us how we can best run schools. History and literature and art and science and environment and so on."

They also said they would like to see a role in setting up public schools, but that would still be a public role in ensuring accountability. Hart said, "I think it's good educationally," Hart said. "I think it also can be appropriate compensation for those of us who are strongly opposed to the vouchers to show that there are alternative ways of strengthening the public schools without providing a massive subsidy for private schools."

Gary Hartley, a spokesman for the newly formed Choice in Education League, said thousands of volunteers are gathering signatures to meet in April if decided to qualify for privately financed voucher initiative for the November ballot.

The proposal would basically give parents the right to send their children to any public, private or even religious school in state at public expense.

Charter schools proposed  
The plan would establish special innovative schools and many state

By Thomas Gray  
McClatchy News Service

SACRAMENTO  
The Democratic leaders on education have introduced legislation yesterday to let teachers, parents and others set up specially chartered private schools that would be free of many regulations as long as they meet performance standards.  
The legislation, Senate Bill 1142 and Assembly Bill 2118, are designed to let teachers and parents bypass the state's many school rules and regulations to create an alternative to a school voucher initiative that is being championed by the Republican side of the legislature.  
Sen. Gary Hart, of Santa Barbara, and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin of Union City, said their legislation would let groups of educators and others who disagree with local school boards or the state to try an alternative education program, either in separate schools or in campuses within existing schools.  
The lawmakers claim the legislation contradicts the goal of the state's voucher bill, where they have had the charter school concept since that bill was first introduced.

SB 1448

Riverside, CA  
(Riverside Co.)  
Press Enterprise  
(Cir. D. 140,941)  
(Cir. S. 141,148)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

# 'Chartered' school plan proposed

E-54 page A-3

► The plan would permit the establishment of special innovative public schools and free them of many state regulations.

By Thorne Gray  
McClatchy News Service

## SACRAMENTO

Two Democratic leaders on education issues introduced legislation yesterday to let teachers, parents and others set up specially chartered innovative schools that would be free of many regulations as long as they met performance standards.

The measures, Senate Bill 1448 and Assembly Bill 2585, are designed to let teachers and parents improve the state's many failing school districts and would be an antidote to a school voucher initiative that is being circulated for the November ballot, the lawmakers said.

Sen. Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin, D-Union City, said their legislation would let teams of educators and others win charters from local school boards or the state to try out innovative education programs, either in separate schools or in classrooms within existing schools.

The lawmakers chair the education committees of the Senate and the Assembly, where they have had the charter school concept under study for more than a year.

They said the charter schools could be freed of many bureaucratic requirements that hamper innovation in the public school system and leave many public schools to fail miserably under "business as usual" administrators and teachers.

At the same time, Hart and Eastin said charter schools would be required to teach all children, not just the brightest, and they would continue to follow basic health and safety rules, curriculum requirements and anti-discrimination standards.

The proposal would be limited to no more than 100 or 200 schools while the bugs are worked out at first, but eventually would be available statewide.

Hart and Eastin said they envisioned schools that would be tailored to local education demands and job markets, that might try doing without grades and that would employ more team teaching and other innovations that are proving themselves elsewhere.

"We think that the old factory model school has really outlived its usefulness," Eastin said. "We think that there is a lot more room to say to the professionals, 'Why don't you tell us how we can best communicate history and literature and politics and ecology and environment concerns?'"

Universities, private business and other entities could play a role in setting up such schools, but there would still be a public role in assuring accountability, Hart said.

"I think it's sound educationally," Hart said. "I think it also can be appropriate ammunition for those of us who are strongly opposed to the vouchers to show that there are alternative ways of organizing the public schools without providing a massive subsidy for private schools."

Gary Huckaby, a spokesman for the newly formed Choice in Education League, said thousands of volunteers are gathering signatures to meet an April 27 deadline to qualify the privately financed voucher initiative for the November ballot.

The proposal would basically give parents the right to send their children to any public, private or even religious school, in part at public expense.

5B 1448

Long Beach, CA  
(Los Angeles Co.)  
Press Telegram  
(Cir. D. 129,472)  
(Cir. S. 141,646)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

# Democrats' plan would charter schools to foster innovations

E-54

McClatchy News Service

SACRAMENTO — Two Democratic leaders on education issues introduced legislation Tuesday to let teachers, parents and others set up specially chartered innovative schools that would be free of many regulations as long as they met performance standards.

The measures, Senate Bill 1448 and Assembly Bill 2585, are designed to let teachers and parents improve the state's many failing school districts and would be an antidote to a school voucher initiative that is being circulated for the November ballot, the lawmakers said.

Sen. Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin, D-Union City, said their legislation would let teams of educators and others

win charters from local school boards or the state to try out innovative education programs, in separate schools or in classrooms within existing schools.

The lawmakers head the education committees of the Senate and the Assembly, where the charter school concept has been studied for more than a year.

They said the charter schools could be freed of many bureaucratic requirements that hamper innovation in the public school system and leave many public schools to fail miserably under "business as usual" administrators and teachers.

At the same time, Hart and Eastin said charter schools would be required to teach all children, not just the brightest, and they would continue to follow basic

health and safety rules, curriculum requirements and anti-discrimination standards.

The proposal would be limited to no more than 100 or 200 schools while the bugs are worked out at first, but eventually would be available statewide.

Hart and Eastin said they envisioned schools that would be tailored to local education demands and job markets, that might try doing without grades and that would employ more team teaching and other innovations that are proving successful elsewhere.

Universities, private business and other entities could play a role in setting up such schools, but there would still be a public role in assuring accountability, Hart said.

SB 1448

Escondido, CA  
(San Diego Co.)  
Daily Times Advocate  
(Cir. D.47,500)  
(Cir. S. 49,000)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

# Proposal for 'alternative' public schools in California unveiled

**■ EDUCATION:** Chairmen of two state education committees offer an alternative to the controversial voucher initiative

ANN BANCROFT/San Francisco Chronicle

SACRAMENTO — The chairmen of the Legislature's two education committees proposed a radical overhaul of public education to allow parents and

teachers to establish alternative "charter schools" within the public school system.

The proposals by state Sen. Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin, D-Union City, provide a public school choice alternative to a controversial school voucher initiative being circulated for the November ballot. That plan, backed by conservatives and religious organizations, would subsidize students who attend private

and religious schools.

Under the lawmakers' plan, introduced in separate but similar Senate and Assembly bills, two-thirds of the teachers and a majority of the parents at a public school could petition their board of education to change their school to a charter school.

The bills call for a limit of 100 charter schools statewide, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Teachers at charter schools would be allowed to

design their educational programs to fit the needs of students, provided that basic state educational and performance standards were achieved.

The schools would be required to admit all students eligible for public schools; to reflect the ethnic and racial population of the district; to be non-sectarian; and to be tuition-free.

"The old factory model school has really outlived its usefulness," Eastin said Tuesday.

5B 1448

Victorville, CA  
(San Bernardino Co.)  
Victor Valley Daily  
Press  
(Cir. D. 24,684)  
(Cir. S. 26,056)

**FEB 12 1992**

Allen's P.C.B. Est. 1888

► **EDUCATION**

*E-54*  
**Legislators propose charter school program**

SACRAMENTO (AP) — The calls for school reform broadened Tuesday with education leaders in the Legislature proposing a charter schools system that may be used to fight a school-choice ballot initiative.

Sen. Gary Hart of Santa Barbara and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin of Union City, Democrats who chair the education committees in their legislative houses, said the measures are not designed to derail the proposed school-choice or

voucher initiative.

Hart said at a Capitol news conference, however, that their measures may become "strong ammunition" for educators and parents opposed to the voucher initiative. At the very least, the lawmakers said, their charter-school bills will stir controversy, probably in the form of opposition from school boards.

"It's a bold departure. I'm sure there's some folks in the education community who are going to have real concerns,"

Hart said.

Under the charter system, teachers could win permission from a local school board to run a school for five years, based on a charter that details programs and standards. The school would still receive public funds but would be freed from much regulation.

Davis Campbell, executive director of the California School Boards Association, said in an interview that his organization does not oppose the concept of

charter schools. "It's not particularly threatening, but we have to look at the mechanics of it," Campbell said.

Teachers seeking charters could team up with private, non-profit agencies. They would submit petitions signed by 10 percent of instructors in the district or 50 percent of teachers at a school.

If the school board rejected the proposal, petitioners could seek permission jointly from the state education board and

schools chief.

The legislators, who acknowledged the system is similar to some limited programs already under way, said the charter schools would provide choices to parents and strengthen the public school system.

The legislators said the competing voucher initiative would provide choice only to those who can afford it, while dismantling the public school system.

SB 1448

Camarillo, CA  
(Ventura Co.)  
Daily News  
(Cir D. 11,500)

FEB 12 1992  
Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

# Lawmakers pose school charter plan

<sup>E-54</sup>  
SACRAMENTO (AP) — The calls for school reform broadened Tuesday with education leaders in the Legislature proposing a charter schools system that may be used to fight a school-choice ballot initiative.

Sen. Gary Hart of Santa Barbara and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin of Union City, Democrats who chair the education committees in their legislative houses, said the measures are not designed to derail the proposed school-choice or voucher initiative.

Hart said at a Capitol news conference, however, that their measures may become "strong ammunition" for educators and

parents opposed to the voucher initiative. At the very least, the lawmakers said, their charter-school bills will stir controversy, probably in the form of opposition from school boards.

"It's a bold departure. I'm sure there's some folks in the education community who are going to have real concerns," Hart said.

Under the charter system, teachers could win permission from a local school board to run a school for five years, based on a charter that details programs and standards. The school would still receive public funds but would be freed from much regulation.

Davis Campbell, executive di-

rector of the California School Boards Association, said in an interview that his organization does not oppose the concept of charter schools. "It's not particularly threatening, but we have to look at the mechanics of it," Campbell said.

Teachers seeking charters could team up with private, non-profit agencies. They would submit petitions signed by 10 percent of instructors in the district or 50 percent of teachers at a school.

If the school board rejected the proposal, petitioners could seek permission jointly from the state education board and schools chief.

The bills would allow a maximum of 100 charters, which could be revoked by either the local board or the state.

The legislators, who acknowledged the system is similar to some limited programs already under way, said the charter schools would provide choices to parents and strengthen the public school system.

The legislators said the competing voucher initiative would provide choice only to those who can afford it, while dismantling the public school system. The measure is widely opposed by educators and parents.

SB 1448

Pinole, CA  
(Contra Costa Co.)  
West County Times  
(Cir. D. 54,048)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

# 'Chartered' schools plan proposed as alternative

By Thorne Gray  
McClatchy News Service  
E-54 pg 40

SACRAMENTO — Two Democratic leaders on education issues introduced legislation Tuesday to let teachers, parents and others set up specially chartered innovative schools that would be free of many regulations as long as they meet performance standards.

Senate Bill 1448 and Assembly Bill 2585 are designed to let teachers and parents improve failing school districts and would be an antidote to a school voucher initiative being circulated for the November ballot, the lawmakers said.

Sen. Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin, D-Union City, said their leg-

islation would let teams of educators and others win charters from local school boards or the state to try innovative education programs, either in separate schools or in present classrooms.

The lawmakers chair the education committees of the Senate and the Assembly, where they had been

studying the charter school concept more than a year.

They said the charter schools could be freed of many bureaucratic requirements that hamper innovation in the public school system and leave many public schools to fail miserably under "business as usual" administrators and teachers.

Hayward, CA  
(Alameda Co.)  
Review  
(Cir. D. 48,575)  
(Cir. S. 50,244)

SB 1448

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

# Bill would create schools under local control

■ Eastin proposes 'charter schools' free from most state rules and regulations

By Edward N. Albro  
STAFF WRITER

Teachers and parents could take charge of their local public schools — free from most state and school board interference — under a proposal unveiled Tuesday by Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin, D-Fremont.

Eastin's charter school idea represents a way to reform education that is more moderate than the school voucher initiative, which most educators are dead-set against.

Charter schools would be freed from most of the state's rules and regulations and would be independent of their school districts. In exchange for the increased flexibility, the schools would have to meet a series of tests to make sure they are effectively teaching students.

## More flexibility

"We think there are some schools in California which are clearly getting failing grades. The leadership just hasn't been getting the job done," said Eastin, chairwoman of the Assembly Education Committee. Charter schools would "give a lot more power and flexibility to trained professionals to fix the problems."

Similar legislation passed last year in Minnesota, according to Ted Kolderie, senior associate at the Center for Policy Studies in Minneapolis. While no charter schools are operating yet, most proposals share a few characteristics, said Kolderie, who consulted on the California legislation.

Most proposals are for small schools with 100 or fewer students, he said. Most applicants also favor the elementary school approach, in which teachers have the same students throughout the day.

## Guarded reaction

Eastin's bill, which is paired with similar legislation by state Sen. Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, drew guarded reaction from parents, teachers and administrators.

"We have never seen a new program introduced that did not end up costing money," said D.A. Weber, president of the California Teachers Association. "With our public schools already starved of funds, this would seem the worst of all times to initiate a major educational experiment."

Bill Quirk, president of the Hayward Eden Vista Council Parent Teacher Association, said the system would not solve the underlying problems Hayward schools face. "The reason test scores are low here is not because we have poor policies but because we have lots of poor kids and recent immigrants who don't speak much English."

Tracy Superintendent Nick Ferguson was skeptical of the proposal.

"If a charter is simply a pilot that allows freedom within a school, I think that's great," Ferguson said. But, "I think we're trying to legislate some things that really need to be done within the system itself."

California doesn't need legislation to make schools creative, San Ramon Valley Superintendent John Duncan said.

"My question would be why isn't that possible under restructuring?" Duncan said. "Why couldn't a school district provide for carefully thought-out experimentation without a charter school?"

## Honig a supporter

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Bill Honig is a long-time supporter of the charter school idea, according to spokeswoman Susie Lang. "He's definitely encouraged the legislature to look at the idea."

By providing a more moderate school reform alternative, Hart acknowledged Tuesday, the charter proposal could supply "strong ammunition" in the fight against the voucher initiative, which supporters hope to put on the November ballot.

Under the voucher initiative, children who attend private schools would receive half the annual cost of educating them in a public school to help pay for their education.

Staff writers Zoe Francis, Marilee Strong, Rich Riggs and James Florian Zelinski contributed to this report.

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

# A charter E 54 Page 1 for reform in schools

■ Eastin's proposal is more moderate than voucher initiative, but it still stirs controversy

By Edward N. Albro  
STAFF WRITER

Teachers and parents could take charge of their local public schools — free from most state and school board interference — under a proposal unveiled Tuesday by Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin, D-Fremont.

Eastin's charter school idea represents a way to reform education that is more moderate than the school voucher initiative that most educators are dead-set against.

Charter schools would be freed from most of the state's rules and regulations and would be independent of their school districts. In exchange for the increased flexibility, the schools would have to meet a series of tests to make sure they are effectively teaching students.

"We think there are some schools in California which are clearly getting failing grades. The leadership just hasn't been getting the job done," said Eastin, chairwoman of the Assembly Education Committee. Charter schools would "give a lot more power and flexibility to trained professionals to fix the problems."

Similar legislation passed last year in Minnesota, according to Ted Kolderie, senior associate at the Center for Policy Studies in Minneapolis. While no charter schools are operating yet, most proposals share a few characteristics, said Kolderie, who consulted on the California legislation.

Most proposals are for small schools with 100 or fewer students, he said. Most applicants also favor the elementary school approach, in which teachers have the same students throughout the day.

Eastin's bill, which is paired with similar legislation by state

the November ballot.

Under the voucher initiative, children who attend private schools would receive half the annual cost of educating them in a public school to help pay for their education.

The proposal also would allow children to attend any public school in the state, regardless of where they live.

The voucher system "would really destroy public education," Eastin argues. It would pull the 'cream' of the student body — children from rich families and children who learn easily — into private schools while public schools would be left with the most difficult and expensive to educate children.

Continued from page A-1

Sen. Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, drew guarded reaction from parents, teachers and administrators.

"We have never seen a new program introduced that did not end up costing money," said D.A. Weber, president of the California Teachers Association. "With our public schools already starved of funds, this would seem the worst of all times to initiate a major educational experiment."

Bill Quirk, president of the Hayward Eden Vista Council Parent Teacher Association, said the system would not solve the underlying problems Hayward schools face. "The reason test scores are low here is not because we have poor policies but because we have lots of poor kids and recent immigrants who don't speak much English."

Tracy Superintendent Nick Ferguson was skeptical of the proposal.

"If a charter is simply a pilot that allows freedom within a school, I think that's great," Ferguson said. But, "I think we're trying to legislate some things that really need to be done within the system itself."

California doesn't need legislation to make schools creative, San Ramon Valley Superintendent John Duncan said.

"My question would be why isn't that possible under restructuring?" Duncan said. "Why couldn't a school district provide for carefully thought-out experimentation without a charter school?"

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Bill Honig is a long-time supporter of the charter school idea, according to spokeswoman Susie Lang. "He's definitely encouraged the legislature to look at the idea."

By providing a more moderate school reform alternative, Hart acknowledged Tuesday that the charter proposal could supply "strong ammunition" in the fight against the voucher initiative, which supporters hope to put on

But voucher supporters said the charter plan is really a just a portion of their proposal.

"It sounds to me like they just endorsed one-third of my bill," said state Sen. Bill Leonard, R-Upland, who has authored a legislative version of the voucher program.

"I'm pleased to see them coming aboard," he said.

But, "it doesn't go far enough, it needs the other two-thirds of what I'm proposing," public funding for students to attend private schools.

E 54  
Staff writers Zoe Francis, Marilee Strong, Rich Riggs and James Florian Zelinski contributed to this report.

SB 1448

# 'Alternative' Public Schools Plan Offered to the Legislature

Santa Cruz, CA  
(Santa Cruz Co.)  
Sentinel  
(Cir. 5xW. 17,551)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

## State officials push for school reform

The Associated Press

E54 (PA-5)

SACRAMENTO — The calls for school reform broadened Tuesday with education leaders in the Legislature proposing a charter schools system that may be used to fight a school-choice ballot initiative.

Sen. Gary Hart of Santa Barbara and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin of Union City, Democrats who chair the education committees in their legislative houses, said the measures are not designed to derail the proposed school-choice or voucher initiative.

Hart said at a Capitol news conference, however, that their measures may become "strong ammunition" for educators and parents opposed to the voucher initiative. At the very least, the lawmakers said, their charter-school bills will stir controversy, probably in the form of opposition from school boards.

"It's a bold departure. I'm sure there's some folks in the education community who are going to have real concerns," Hart said.

Under the charter system, teachers could win permission from a local school board to run a school for five years, based on a charter that details programs and standards. The school would still receive public funds but would be freed from much regulation.

Davis Campbell, executive director of the California School Boards Association, said in an interview that his organization does not oppose the concept of charter

schools. "It's not particularly threatening, but we have to look at the mechanics of it," Campbell said.

Teachers seeking charters could team up with private, non-profit agencies. They would submit petitions signed by 10 percent of instructors in the district or 50 percent of teachers at a school.

If the school board rejected the proposal, petitioners could seek permission jointly from the state education board and schools chief.

The bills would allow a maximum of 100 charters, which could be revoked by either the local board or the state.

The legislators, who acknowledged the system is similar to some limited programs already under way, said the charter schools would provide choices to parents and strengthen the public school system.

The legislators said the competing voucher initiative would provide choice only to those who can afford it, while dismantling the public school system. The measure is widely opposed by educators and parents.

The voucher initiative would allow students who moved to private schools to take with them credit vouchers worth at least \$2,500, an amount equal to half the annual cost of educating a child in public school.

The proposal also would allow children to attend any public school in the state, regardless of where they live.

SB 1448

# 'Alternative' Public Schools Plan Offered to the Legislature

From Page A13

educational programs to fit the needs of students, provided that basic state educational and performance standards were achieved. The schools would be required to admit all students eligible for public schools; to reflect the ethnic and racial population of the district; to be nonsectarian; and to be tuition-free.

"The old factory model school has really outlived its usefulness," Eastin said. "The workplace doesn't look like it looked 50 or 100 years ago, very few things look like they looked 50 or 100 years ago, except the public schools."

Under the proposal, local businesses, universities and nonprofit agencies would have the opportunity to co-sponsor charter schools, offering job training at their work sites or providing instructors for on-campus classes.

Other proposal features offer schools with poor academic achievement records to become charter institutions in exchange for smaller class sizes and concentrated academic assistance. Elementary charter schools might opt for a program that allows children to progress, without being graded, at individual rates.

Unlike "magnet schools," where districts determine where an alternative school is located and how it is run, charter schools would be formed at the grass-roots level by parents and teachers, and would be accountable to school districts only for annual review and charter renewal every five years.

"Rather than just vacate failed schools, (the plan) gives us the ability to go into some of the worst schools in California, find the most talented people, and give them a charter to fix that school," Eastin said.

The proposal's sponsors said they expect concerted opposition from school boards and other "vested interests" in the current public school system. Neither the California Teachers Association nor the California School Boards Association has taken an official position on the bills, but initial reaction from educators was not enthusiastic.

"At a time of economic shortfall in this state," said San Francisco Schools Superintendent Ramon Cortines, "we don't need a lot of little mini-school districts, we need consolidation."

While praising the lawmakers'

"visionary" approach, Cortines said that, in practice, charter schools might "create an escape mechanism where all that is left behind (in the conventional schools) are those kids and parents that don't know how to oil the squeaky wheel."

Lois Tinson, secretary-treasurer of the California Teachers Association, said, "From what I have heard, CTA cannot embrace the concept."

The teachers' organization is likely to oppose a provision in Hart's bill, she said, that would allow charter schools to hire some teachers who do not have certificates.

E 54

*By Ann Bancroft  
Chronicle Correspondent  
Sacramento*  
The chairmen of the Legislature's two education committees yesterday proposed a radical overhaul of public education to allow parents and teachers to establish alternative "charter schools" within the public school system.

The proposals by Senator Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, and Assem-

blywoman Delaine Eastin, D-Union City, provide a public school choice alternative to a controversial school voucher initiative being circulated for the November ballot. That plan, backed by conservatives and religious organizations, would subsidize students who attend private and religious schools.

Senate and Assembly bills, two-thirds of the teachers and a majority of the parents at a public school could petition their board of education to change their school to a charter school. The bills call for a limit of 100 charter schools statewide, on a first-come, first-served basis.

Teachers at charter schools would be allowed to design their

Page A14 CONT

## A Plan for 'Alternative' Schools Legislators propose radically different course for public education

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

FEB 12 1992

San Francisco, CA  
(San Francisco Co.)  
Chronicle  
(Cir. D. 630,954)  
(Cir. Sat. 508,500)

SB 1448

San Francisco, CA  
(San Francisco Co.)  
Examiner  
(Cir. D. 158,711)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

February 12, 1992 A-7

# Alternate to school choice proposed

## Charter system could be used to fight vouchers too

ASSOCIATED PRESS *ESY*

SACRAMENTO — The heads of the Legislature's education committees are proposing a charter schools system that may be used to fight a school-choice ballot initiative.

Democrats Sen. Gary Hart of Santa Barbara and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin of Union City said their proposals weren't designed to derail the proposed school-choice, or voucher, initiative.

But Hart said at a Capitol news conference that their legislation might become "strong ammunition" for educators and parents opposed to the voucher initiative.

Under the charter system, teachers could win permission from a local school board to run a school for five years, based on a charter that details programs and standards. The school would still receive public funds but would be freed from much regulation.

The voucher initiative would allow students who moved to private schools to take with them credit vouchers worth at least \$2,500, an amount equal to half the annual cost of educating a child in public school.

SB 1448

El Centro, CA  
(Imperial Co.)  
Imperial Valley Press  
(Cir. D. 10,850)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B Est. 1888

# Legislative leaders pose charter schools system

*P-54 PAGE A-10*  
SACRAMENTO (AP) — The heads of the Legislature's education committees are proposing a charter schools system that may be used to fight a school-choice ballot initiative.

Sen. Gary Hart of Santa Barbara and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin of Union City, Democrats who chair the education committees in their houses, said Tuesday that their proposals are not designed to derail the proposed school-choice or voucher initiative.

However, Hart said at a Capitol news conference that their legislation may become "strong ammunition" for educators and parents opposed to the voucher initiative.

At the very least, the lawmakers said, their charter-school bills will stir controversy, probably in the form of opposition from school boards.

"It's a bold departure. I'm sure there's some folks in the education community who are going to have real concerns," Hart said.

Under the charter system, teachers could win permission from a local school board to run a school for five years, based on a charter that details programs and standards. The school would still receive public funds but would be freed from much regulation.

Davis Campbell, executive director of the California School Boards Association, said in an interview that his organization does not oppose the concept of charter schools. "It's not particularly threatening, but we have to look at the mechanics of it," Campbell said.

Teachers seeking charters could team up with private, non-profit agencies. To propose creation of a charter school, backers would submit petitions signed by 10 percent of instructors in the district or 50 percent of teachers at a school.

If the school board rejected the proposal, petitioners could seek permission jointly from the state's Board of Education and schools chief.

The bills would allow a maximum of 100 charters, which could be revoked by either the local board or

the state.

Hart and Eastin, who acknowledged the system is similar to some limited programs already under way, said the charter schools would provide choices to parents and strengthen the public school system.

The legislators said the competing voucher initiative would provide choice only to those who can afford it, while dismantling the public school system. The measure is widely opposed by educators and parents.

The voucher initiative would allow students who moved to private schools to take with them credit vouchers worth at least \$2,500, an amount equal to half the annual cost of educating a child in public school.

The proposal also would allow children to attend any public school in the state, regardless of where they live.

SB 1448

San Pedro, CA  
(Los Angeles Co.)  
News Pilot  
(Cir. D. 16,500)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

**Innovative educational programs are proposed**

SACRAMENTO — Two Democratic leaders on education issues introduced legislation Tuesday to let teachers, parents and others set up specially chartered innovative schools that would be free of many regulations as long as they met performance standards.

The measures, Senate Bill 1448 and Assembly Bill 2585, are designed to let teachers and parents improve the state's many failing school districts and would be an antidote to a school voucher initiative that is being circulated for the November ballot, the lawmakers said.

Sen. Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin, D-Union City, said their legislation would let teams of educators and

others win charters from local school boards or the state to try out innovative education programs, either in separate schools or in classrooms within existing schools.

The lawmakers chair the education committees of the Senate and the Assembly, where they have had the charter school concept under study for more than a year.

They said the charter schools could be freed of many bureaucratic requirements that hamper innovation in the public school system and leave many public schools to fail miserably under "business as usual" administrators and teachers.

E-54

E-54

pg 12

Oxnard, CA  
(Ventura Co.)  
Press-Courier  
(Cir. D. 19,715)  
(Cir. S. 20,476)

SB 1448

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

## 'Charter schools' Hart goal

Legislation to authorize the creation of "charter schools" was announced Tuesday by state Sen. Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, and Assembly Member Delaine Eastin, D-Fremont.

These new and innovative schools would be established by a team of qualified experts, primarily teachers, who obtain a "charter" from a local school board or the state Board of Education and superintendent of public instruction. The charter would allow the team to establish and maintain schools that would operate independently from the existing, sometimes cumbersome, public school bureaucratic rules and structure, the legislators said.

Hart and Eastin chair the education committees in the respective houses of the Legislature. The legislators indicated that, although the content of their bills differ somewhat, they each plan to make legislation creating charter schools a top priority in the coming year.

"These 'charter schools' will provide parents and students with expanded educational opportunities within the public school system," Hart said. "At the same time, the schools will create new professional opportunities for teachers, including the ability to be fully responsible for the learning program at the school site."

"Clearly, some of California's public schools are broken and require fixing," Eastin said. "It is time for us to create a different environment for public education — the factory school model is not working for all our children."

The charter schools would be exempted from existing statutes and regulations covering school districts to allow maximum flexibility in achieving high educational outcomes, the legislators said.

However, they would be required to maintain health and safety standards for pupils and staff, operate as nonsectarian entities, be open to all students irrespective of ethnicity, national origin, gender or disability, and prohibited from charging tuition.

"Many public schools do an outstanding job of educating students," Hart said. "However, a large percentage of our students are failing miserably and are disillusioned by school, and their plight cries out for a bold departure and alternate ways of providing educational services."

"The charter school approach would represent a major education reform which would stimulate and encourage such alternatives, while maintaining our traditional democratic commitment to public schools," he said. "Charter schools would send an important message to parents, teachers and the education community that there are new ways of operating schools that must be considered and that public schools can no longer be viewed as an exclusive franchise."

SB 1448

Santa Monica, CA  
(Los Angeles Co.)  
Evening Outlook  
(Cir. D. 30,000)

FEB 12 1992

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

# Legislators aim for innovative schools

*E-54*  
*29. A-7*  
*2 bills would ease regulation*

By Thorne Gray

McCLATCHY NEWS SERVICE

SACRAMENTO — Two Democratic leaders on education issues introduced legislation Tuesday to let teachers, parents and others set up specially chartered innovative schools that would be free of many regulations as long as they met performance standards.

The measures, Senate Bill 1448 and

Assembly Bill 2585, are designed to let teachers and parents improve the state's many failing school districts and would be an antidote to a school voucher initiative that is being circulated for the November ballot, the lawmakers said.

Sen. Gary Hart, D-Santa Barbara, and Assemblywoman Delaine Eastin, D-Union City, said their legislation would let teams of educators and others win charters from local school boards or the state to try out innovative education programs, either in separate schools or in classrooms within existing schools.

The lawmakers chair the education committees of the Senate and the As-

sembly, where they have had the charter school concept under study for more than a year.

They said the charter schools could be freed of many bureaucratic requirements that hamper innovation in the public school system and leave many public schools to fail miserably under "business as usual" administrators and teachers.

At the same time, Hart and Eastin said charter schools would be required to teach all children, not just the brightest, and they would continue to follow basic health and safety rules, curriculum requirements and anti-discrimination

standards.

The proposal would be limited to no more than 100 or 200 schools while the bugs are worked out at first, but eventually would be available statewide.

Hart and Eastin said they envisioned schools that would be tailored to local education demands and job markets, that might try doing without grades and that would employ more team teaching and other innovations that are proving themselves elsewhere.

Universities and private businesses could help set up such schools, but there would still be a public role in assuring accountability, Hart said.

SB 1448

Oxnard, CA  
(Ventura Co.)  
Press-Courier  
(Cir. D. 19,715)  
(Cir. S. 20,476)

FEB 7 - 1992

*Allen's* P.C.B. Est. 1888

## Hart offers <sup>E-54</sup> dirty car law

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Sen. Gary Hart of Santa Barbara has introduced legislation that would allow California's smog police to use remote sensing devices to nab pollution-belching vehicles and require them to be repaired.

The Democrat's bill would authorize air pollution control districts to use remote sensors to identify gross polluters as they pass by and require repairs. Gross polluters are defined as the dirtiest 10 percent of vehicles.

The bill would also authorize fines of up to \$250 for motorists who tamper with their car's emission control equipment.

Hart said the dirtiest vehicles produce more than half of the auto emissions.

"Reducing air pollution has become increasingly costly to the public and to business," Hart said.

"Repairing the dirtiest cars may be the cheapest way to cut emissions."

5B 1448

Santa Barbara, CA  
(Santa Barbara Co.)  
Santa Barbara  
News Press  
(Cir. D. 52,000)  
(Cir. S. 57,000)

FEB 5 - 1992

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

E-54 pg. A-6

## What choice?

### *Initiative would subsidize private schools at public expense*

1133  
Californians are fed up with a perceived lack of quality in state schools, and, truthfully, there's a lot wrong with public education. But the proposed Parental Choice in Education Initiative is not the answer. It is a bad solution to a complex problem.

Choice in schools is a compelling concept. What parent doesn't dream of providing his or her child with a "private school" education at bargain rates? Under the Parental Choice initiative, taxpayers would be subsidizing those who already attend private schools, at the expense of children in public schools around the state.

The initiative would grant taxpayer-provided "scholarships" of an estimated \$2,500 per student to the parents of all private school youngsters. There are more than 530,000 children in private schools in California. More than three-quarters of them come from families that make an average of \$50,000 per year. At the outset, this initiative would shift \$1.5 billion in public education money to private schools without one student switching from public to private education.

More egregious is a provision that allows private school students who pay less than the annual stipend to "bank" the difference and use

it for private or public higher education, through age 26. Youngsters who attend public schools would have no such taxpayer-sponsored college savings plan.

Instead of shifting public dollars to private schools, there should be more focus on how California can improve the public school system from within. Public schools suffer from bloated bureaucracy, stifling regulation handed down from Sacramento and an inability to adapt to needed change.

Santa Barbara's state Sen. Gary Hart authored legislation last year that created a pilot program to involve parents and on-site school officials in decision-making and modernizing instruction. The key is local control.

Three Santa Barbara County schools qualified for initial planning grants, which went to 200 schools statewide. They are Santa Barbara and San Marcos high schools, and Cleveland elementary school. The amounts are not large, but they are a start. How much better to spend taxpayer dollars on providing stronger, locally directed and innovative programs in the public schools, than to penalize them by subsidizing private schools.

When it comes to public school improvement, this choice initiative offers no options at all.