



State Senator
Gary K. Hart

release for immediate release for

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

CONTACT: JOE CAVES (916) 445-5405
OR SUE BURR (916) 445-2522

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1992
PRESS RELEASE #13C

HART'S "CHARTER SCHOOL" BILL PASSES SENATE

Legislation by Senator Gary K. Hart (D-Santa Barbara) to authorize the creation of "charter schools" passed the State Senate last 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.

"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."

-over-

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.

#####