

HB 1427 -- SCHOOL DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY

SPONSOR: Sommer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Government Efficiency by a vote of 9 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on General Laws by a vote of 7 to 3.

This bill requires every school district and charter school to maintain an accountability portal for the public. By September 1, 2017 each public school district and charter school must develop, maintain, and make available all publicly available budget, income, expenditure, and disbursement information for the current fiscal year. The data on the portal must be updated quarterly and remain available for at least 10 years.

Additionally, the bill requires, by January 1, 2017, that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) create a template for voluntary use by any school district needing assistance in developing an accountability portal. In the event that a school district or charter school does not maintain a website, the information must be maintained through DESE.

This bill is similar to HB 798 (2015).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this will bring more accountability to school districts and impose public access and accountability standards which are in line with state level entities.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Sommer.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.