

HB 1376

03/07/2023

Chair Elkin and members of the committee, for the record, my name is Dr. Alyssa Martin, and I am the director of NDCDE. CDE is providing neutral testimony on this bill. We provide services to many stakeholders on both sides of the issue of virtual school choice, parents who have opted to enroll their children in CDE at their own expense and school districts that choose on behalf of their students to use CDE as a supplementary education provider but also typically require their students to attend local seated classes when available.

We wanted to testify today only because we're uncertain of how this bill will impact our enrollments. Because CDE is state funded, with any substantial increases in our enrollment, we'll need to seek additional spending authority through the Emergency Commission to use the tuition that we're collecting on paying additional adjuncts to deliver our courses. We may need to cap enrollments while we seek this authority and find adjuncts through the state hiring process. We temporarily capped enrollments one other time—during the pandemic as we sought an increase in our special spending authority—but we thought it may be best, for transparency purposes, if the authority of CDE to cap enrollments should be included in the bill. We propose this recommendation as an amendment to the bill.