



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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**LET CHARTER, PRIVATE SCHOOLS
ISSUE YOUTH WORK PERMITS**

**House Bill 5789 as introduced
First Analysis (9-18-96)**

**Sponsor: Rep. Mike Green
Committee: Human Resources and Labor**

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

Currently, under the Youth Employment Standards Act, before a minor (generally a child more than 14 but less than 18 years old) can be employed, he or she must get a work permit from the "issuing officer" of the school district or intermediate school district where the minor lives. Work permits also may be issued by school districts in which a minor's place of employment is located. The act defines "issuing officer" to mean the "superintendent of a school district or intermediate school district, or a person whom the superintendent authorizes in writing to act on behalf of the superintendent." The act includes age exemptions for golf caddies, who may be as young as 11 years old, and for children who work in farm operations involving seed production (including "detasseling," "roguing," and hoeing) during school vacations, who must be at least 13 years old. The act also specifically doesn't apply to or prohibit the employment of "student minors" at least 14 years old if the employer and the board of education of the school district in which the student minor is enrolled have entered into a written agreement or contract (though the agreement can't violate federal laws or regulations).

Some people believe that private and charter school administrators also should be allowed to issue these required minor work permits, and legislation has been introduced that would allow this.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would amend the Youth Employment Standards Act to allow private ("nonpublic") and charter ("public school academies") schools also to issue work permits. The bill would change the definition of "issuing officer" to mean "the chief administrator of a school district or intermediate school district, public school academy, or nonpublic school, or a person authorized by that chief administrator in writing to act on his or her behalf." The bill would require work permits to be issued by the issuing officer of the school district or intermediate school district, public school academy, or nonpublic school at which the minor was enrolled. Work permits also could be issued by the school district in which the

minor's place of employment was located, or "by the public school academy or nonpublic school nearest that place of employment." Finally, the bill would allow written agreements or contracts to be entered into between employers and the "governing body" (instead of the board of education) not only of the school district but also of the public school academy or nonpublic school at which the minor was enrolled (rather than of the school district where the minor lived).

MCL 409.102, 409.104, and 409.118

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

Fiscal information is not available.

ARGUMENTS:

For:

The bill would allow private or charter schools to issue youth employment permits, in addition to public schools. Currently, only the superintendent of a public school or an intermediate school district can issue work permits, so private and charter school students who wish to work must go to the public schools to get their work permits. This causes unnecessary extra time and work for both the students and the schools involved. At a time when the number of charter schools is increasing, the number of students forced to go through this extra hurdle to employment will only increase. The bill would eliminate this hurdle and streamline the work permit process for private and charter school students.

POSITIONS:

The Department of Education supports the bill. (9-17-96)

Analyst: S. Ekstrom

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

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