



---

## Celebrating Chartering @ 30 – MINNESOTA'S STORY

While it is never over until the full House and Senate pass an Omnibus Bill, normally the bills do not face a motion to send the bill back to the Conference Committee – but that's what occurred in the House when the Omnibus Education Bill reached the House floor. The Omnibus Education bill not only had opposition because of the charter provisions, but also because of a new education funding formula in the legislation.

Senator Reichgott had been afraid of a motion to send the bill back to Conference coming from a DFL opponent of chartering. However, the motion to send the bill back came from three Republicans who were opposed to the new education funding formula because the school district that they represented would have been adversely affected.

During the debate on the motion to send the bill back to Conference, Rep. Nelson, the author, stated: *"On the motion.... We have been negotiating as much as we can with the Senate. They are adamant on several of those provisions..."* that MEA and MFT were opposed to. *"We did our best to modify those. The Senate wants those much stronger."*

Rep. Charlie Weaver, a Republican co-author of the charter bill addressed the House about the charter provisions stating: *"I know you are getting a lot of heat from the teaching organizations. The MEA and MFT both endorsed me last time. I'm telling you this is bad policy to send this back.... I encourage you to take a look at the language in the bill. This does not open the door for any kind of dangerous charter school where there is a group of crazies teaching our kids. This language is tough, tough language."*

There were also members who spoke in favor of the motion to send the bill back to Conference including Rep. Mary Murphy, a DFL representative from Duluth and union supporter. Senator Reichgott Junge wrote in **ZERO CHANCE OF PASSAGE** that *"Murphy had apparently intended to be the DFLer to make the motion to return the bill to conference committee. But the Republicans had trumped her motion."*

Rep. Bob McEachern, Chair of the House Education Committee and charter opponent, told the

House: *"I encourage you to support the .... Motion... You all received a letter from the teachers' unions saying they can't support the bill. There are only about two or three little points in the bill that they're not supporting, so if we can get to a conference committee, we can clear those up. We've been threatened by the gentleman over in the senate, that he'll [hold the bill]. Well, we've had those before since I've been here, and we have always gotten a bill out, so don't be threatened by that."*

The Speaker called for the vote on the motion to return the bill to conference. The vote was 60 in favor of the motion to return the bill to conference and 64 against, with 10 members not voting. The Omnibus bill and chartering survived by the narrowest of margins.

The debate on the bill resumed and in the end the Omnibus Education Bill (with chartering in it) passed the House on a vote with 85 in favor, 45 against, and 4 not voting.

The Senate voted two days later and passed the Omnibus Education Bill on a vote of 56 -11.

**NEXT WEEK:** Senator Reichgott's speech during the senate debate on the Omnibus Bill.

---

Quotes are from the book: ***ZERO CHANCE OF PASSAGE***, by Senator Ember Reichgott Junge. Limited copies of the book are still available. To order a copy email: [ember.reichgott@gmail.com](mailto:ember.reichgott@gmail.com)



---

Copyright © 2022 Minnesota Association of Charter Schools, All rights reserved.

You were added to this list as a sample email to test out MailChimp.

**Our mailing address is:**

Minnesota Association of Charter Schools  
161 St. Anthony Avenue, Suite 1000  
St Paul, MN 55103

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

