



April 17, 2017

Charter School Preemption

HB 7101 (Cortes), a bill relating to K-12 Education, will be considered by the full House of Representatives on Tuesday, April 18th at 1:00 p.m.

Lines 737-738 of **HB 7101** preempt local government input in the conversion of a library, community center, museum, performing arts center, theatre, cinema, or church, to a charter school.

This language would allow a charter school company to convert existing buildings or build additional structures on these sites without obtaining ANY form of approval from local government.

Charter schools that convert one of these existing land uses or facilities will not have to address potential impacts on traffic circulation, impacts to nearby homes and businesses, or impacts student/pedestrian safety.

Charter schools should be treated the same as traditional K-12 public schools when it comes to addressing land use impacts. As currently drafted, however, HB 7101 goes far beyond parity. It would give charter schools preferential treatment over everything and everybody – a literal carte blanche to re-build, reconfigure, and drastically the increase size and capacity of a site without so much as a site plan approval or public hearing.

Please contact members of the Florida House of Representatives and ask them to remove this language from HB 7101.

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You can also use the League's [Contact Your Legislator](#) advocacy tool to e-mail your legislators.

Should you have any questions please contact Rebecca O'Hara at 850-701-3692 or e-mail rohara@flcities.com.

Thank you for your advocacy efforts!