

PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENTS TO HB24-1448

There is no new funding for this bill! This is a bill that “rearranges the deck chairs on the Titanic.” It “robs Peter to pay Paul” to cover the cost of the reordered priorities. We oppose draining the State Education Fund to pay for the bill as well as eliminating reinvestments into the School Land Trust Permanent Fund.

We support amendments to do the following:

1. Put in “trigger” language which halts the implementation of HB24-1448 in the event of decreases in tax revenue that would cause a return of the Budget Stabilization Factor. A strong trigger is necessary to safeguard funding for school districts.
2. Remove the additional money going into capital construction for charters. When districts can't pass bonds, charters shouldn't automatically get money for capital construction.
3. Fund charters based on the specific populations they serve, rather than allowing the full amount of district per-pupil funding to pass through entirely to them. Charters do not have the same percentages as the district for these specific populations, so they should not receive the full amount the district gets; it should be pro-rated for the charters' demographics.

A4PEP would also like to see a “sunset” provision put on this bill, in order to evaluate whether it has accomplished its goal of improving equity in funding. Furthermore, A4PEP urges the Legislature to put off passage of the bill until the adequacy studies have been completed in order to determine whether the new formula is sustainable.