



THOMAS WEATHERSTON

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 62ND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Technical College Charter High School Bill Included in Budget

Madison – Representative Thomas Weatherston (R-Caledonia) today announced that his Technical College Charter High School bill, 2015 Assembly Bill 64, was incorporated into the budget today by a vote of the Joint Finance Committee. The JFC voted to implement Rep. Weatherston’s idea as a pilot program in the Gateway Technical College District, which includes Racine, Kenosha and Walworth Counties.

“I want to give Technical Colleges the flexibility and opportunity to establish new ways to get young adults trained and into the workforce quickly and with minimal or no debt,” said Weatherston. “Not every student plans to attend a four year college, this is an alternative pathway to a high school diploma for students who may not respond well to a traditional education.. I’m excited that Gateway will have the first opportunity to operate this type of charter school.”

The charter schools would be funded at the same level as other independent charter schools. The resident school district would count the student as attending for revenue limits and aid purposes. DPI would reduce the districts aid to pay the charter school a payment for each student, which is currently set at \$8,075 for the 2014-2015 school year. The district would not be able to levy to backfill the aid reduction. The new charter schools would only operate high school grades, and the curriculum would focus on STEM or occupational education and training. The flexibilities offered by the charter school law will allow for the possibility of many different types of cooperative agreements when setting up the school operations.

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