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John Bing, Paralegal**SENATE BILL 26-145****CHARTER SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL BALLOT QUESTIONS [CODIFIED AT COLO. REV. STAT. § 22-30.5-403 AND 404]**

This statute modifies the rules for the participation of charter schools in local ballot questions. Any school district committee, including a long-range planning committee, that is designed to assess or prioritize the district's capital construction needs, must include charter school representation and participation. The district must actively solicit charter school participation in the planning process. The statute adds specific notice and timeline requirements for charter school proposals and requires the district to hear a charter school proposal and then articulate publicly the position it takes on charter school request, addressing the “merits” of the charter proposal.

While the statute does not compel any particular outcome to this process, it adds details and clarity concerning the required process and creates more pointed incentives for districts to give serious consideration to charter school proposals in relation to both bond and mill levy questions. Schools in districts considering bond or mill levy questions should familiarize themselves with the specific timing requirements of the revised statute and prepare in advance, if possible, to submit whatever plan they may have for participation in ballot question.

