
SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT AND RETIREMENT
Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No:	AB 2519	Hearing Date:	June 10, 2026
Author:	McKinnor		
Version:	April 20, 2026		
Urgency:	No	Fiscal:	Yes
Consultant:	Glenn Miles		

SUBJECT: State Teachers' Retirement System: positions subject to membership.

KEY ISSUE

This bill makes a technical correction to preserve specified public charter school positions' membership in the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) that Chapter 690, Statutes of 2024 (Assembly Bill 1997, McKinnor) inadvertently eliminated.

ANALYSIS

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) to provide a financially sound plan for the retirement of the state's public school teachers, teachers of schools supported by the state, and other persons employed in connection with the schools. (Education Code § 22001)
- 2) Provides through CalSTRS a defined benefit service retirement and a defined benefit supplement benefit to eligible CalSTRS members, and a cash balance plan for specified persons working less than fifty percent or employed on a temporary basis, as specified. (Education Code § 24201 et seq., § 25000 et seq., and § 26000 et seq.)
- 3) Establishes specified criteria for CalSTRS membership based on performance of "creditable service" and defines creditable service as a number of specified activities related to educating and providing related services to K-14 students, but provides that this definition becomes inoperative on a date to be determined by CalSTRS but not later than July 1, 2027.
- 4) Redefines "creditable service" (and thus, the criteria for CalSTRS membership eligibility) to mean service in a "position subject to membership" and provides that this definition shall become operative on a date to be determined by CalSTRS but not later than July 1, 2027.
- 5) Defines "position subject to membership" to mean several specified positions that provide education or education related services to K-14 students, including positions at a charter school eligible to receive state apportionment where the position requires a teaching credential, but provides that this definition shall become operative on a date to be determined by CalSTRS but not later than July 1, 2027. (Education § 22156.07 and § 22156.07 (3))

This bill:

- 1) Clarifies that "position subject to membership" for purposes of CalSTRS' eligibility includes a position at a charter school eligible to receive state apportionment that is performing,

directing, coordinating, supervising, or administering one or more functions listed in Section 44065 and is either of the following:

- a. A position for which the charter school requires the holding of a valid credential, license, permit, or certificate authorized by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing or the State Department of Health Care Services for the position.
 - b. A position that, if it were at a county office of education or school district, not including a charter school, would require the holding of a valid credential, license, permit, or certificate authorized by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing or the State Department of Health Care Services.
- 2) Requires an eligible charter school to designate, as specified, each position that is a position subject to membership and to identify either the function or functions that the position is performing which require a teaching credential or that the position is directing, coordinating, supervising, or administering.
 - 3) Requires the charter school's resolution to be in effect on the date of hire in the position or be effective retroactively to include the position as of the date of hire, whichever is later, but no earlier than July 1, 2027, i.e., the bill's specified operative date.

COMMENTS

1. Need for this bill?

According to the author:

“This bill corrects an unintended consequence following enactment of Chapter 690, Statutes of 2024 (Assembly Bill 1997, McKinnor) that, among other things, defined “position subject to membership” where some positions at charter schools, i.e., administrators, that were previously eligible for membership in the State Teachers’ Retirement System (CalSTRS) were excluded under that definition.”

“While intending to resolve administrative complexity to simplify those matters, Assembly Bill 1997, *ibid.*, had an unintended effect of excluding certain positions, i.e., administrators, at some charter schools under that bill’s definition of “position subject to membership” where those positions previously were not excluded prior to the enactment of that statute.”

“Assembly Bill 1997, *ibid.*, did not remove or take away the pension or pension rights of affected individuals in those positions, but could affect their ability to continue earning service credit for purposes of retirement while employed in those positions. It also is noted that some charter school positions may not require the holding of a Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) credential etc., even though comparable positions at non-charter schools might be subject to those requirements.”

2. Proponent Arguments

According to a coalition of public charter schools:

“As enacted, AB 1997 (2024) revised the criteria for participation in the CalSTRS system by shifting from a “creditable service” standard to a “position subject to membership” framework. While intended to streamline eligibility determinations, this change has had unintended consequences for charter public schools due to differences in how administrative roles are structured and classified.”

“Absent a legislative fix, many charter school administrators who have historically participated in CalSTRS, and who continue to perform comparable duties to their traditional public school counterparts, will lose eligibility beginning July 1, 2027. This creates a clear inconsistency in retirement access between employees performing similar work in different public school settings.”

“In addition, the change disrupts long-standing career pathways for educators. Charter school teachers, who previously could advance into leadership positions without sacrificing their retirement benefits, will now face a difficult choice between professional advancement and maintaining CalSTRS membership. This risks discouraging leadership development and complicating recruitment and retention efforts across the charter public school sector.”

“AB 2519 addresses this issue by ensuring continuity of eligibility for charter school employees who would otherwise be excluded under the revised framework. By doing so, the bill restores parity, preserves reasonable expectations for current members, and supports a stable and effective educator workforce.”

3. Opponent Arguments:

None received.

4. Prior Legislation:

AB 1997 (McKinnor, Chapter 690, Statutes of 2024) amended key provisions of the Teachers’ Retirement Law (TRL) related to creditable compensation, creditable service, and the reporting of compensation, effective upon a date determined by CalSTRS, no later than July 1, 2027.

SUPPORT

Support

Achieve Charter Schools
Alder Grove Charter School
Allegiance Steam Academy
Alliance College-ready Public Schools
Alma Fuerte Public School
Alpha Public Schools
Altus Schools
American Heritage Charter Schools
Antioch Charter Academy II
Aplus+
Arts in Action Community Charter Schools

Aspen Public Schools, INC.
Association of California School Administrators
Big Picture Educational Academy
Birmingham Community Charter High School
Bridges Preparatory Academy
Brookfield Engineering Science Technology
Bullis Charter School
California Association of School Business Officials
California Charter Schools Association
California League of United Latin American Citizens
California Montessori Project
California Online Public School
California Pacific Charter Schools
California Republic Leadership Academy
Camino Nuevo Charter Academy
Central Valley Charter Schools
Champs Charter High School of the Arts
Charter Schools Development Center
Chime Institute
Choices Charter School
Clarksville Charter School
Compass Charter Schools
Crossroads Charter Academy
CWC Los Angeles
Da Vinci Schools
Dailey Elementary Charter School
Desert Trails Preparatory Academy
Discovery Charter Schools
Dr. Lewis Dolphin Stallworth Charter School
Dual Language Immersion North County
Ednovate
Eel River Charter School
El Sol Science and Arts Academy
Environmental Charter Schools
Epic Charter School
Equitas Academy Charter Schools
Excel Academy Charter School
Extera Public Schools
Feaster (Mae L.) Charter School
Fenton Charter Public Schools
Forest Charter School
Forest Ranch Charter
Gabriella Charter Schools
Gateway College and Career Academy
Gateway Community Charter Schools
Girls Athletic Leadership Schools Los Angeles
Glacier High School Charter
Global Education Collaborative
Golden Valley Charter School
Gorman Learning Charter Network

Granada Hills Charter
Great Valley Academy
Greater San Diego Academy Charter School
Green DOT Public Schools
Green DOT Public Schools California
Griffin Technology Academies
Guajome Schools
Harvest Ridge Cooperative Charter School
Hawking Steam Charter School
Heritage Peak Charter School
High Tech Los Angeles
Homotech Charter School
Ilead CA Charters 1
Ilead California
Ingenium Schools
Innovations Academy
Intellectual Virtues Academy High
Invictus Leadership Academy
Isana Academies
JCS Family of Charter Schools
John Muir Charter Schools
Journey School
Julia Lee Performing Arts Academy
Kairos Public Schools
Kepler Neighborhood School
Kid Street Charter School
KIPP Norcal
KIPP Public Schools Northern California
LA Educ Corps
Lake County International Charter
Larchmont Charter School
Learning for Life Charter School
Leonardo Da Vinci Health Sciences Charter School
Literacy First Charter School K12
Magnolia Public Schools
Maria Montessori Charter Academy
Matrix for Success Academy
Meadows Arts and Technology Elementary School
Method Schools
Montague Charter Academy
Motivated Youth Academy
Mountain Home School Charter
Multicultural Learning Center
National Action Network Sacramento
Natomas Charter School
Navigator Schools
New Heights Charter School
New Los Angeles Charter Schools
New Village Girls Academy
New West Charter

Northern United Charter Schools
Northwest Prep Charter School
Ocean Charter School
Odyssey Charter Schools
Olive Grove Charter School, INC.
Opportunity Youth Schools Coalition (OYSC)
Orange County Academy of Sciences and Arts
Pacific View Charter School
Pacoima Charter School
Paradise Charter Middle School
Pasadena Rosebud Academy Charter School
PazLo Education Foundation
Peabody Charter School
Pivot Charter Schools
Port of Los Angeles High School
Puente Learning Center
Redwood Collegiate Academy
River Charter Schools
River Oaks Academy Charter School
Rocketship Public Schools
Rocklin Academy Family of Schools
Sage Oak Charter Schools
San Diego Virtual School
San Jose Conservation Corps and Charter School
Santa Rosa French-American Charter School
Scholarship Prep
Sebastopol Independent Charter
Shasta Charter Academy
Sherman Thomas Charter School
Sherwood Montessori
SIATech High School
Small School Districts Association
Soar Charter Academy
Sonoma Charter School
Sparrow Academy
Springs Charter Schools
Stem Prep Schools
Summit Public Schools
Sycamore Creek Community Charter School
Synergy Academies
Teach Public Schools
Temecula Valley Charter School
The Cottonwood School
The Foundation for Hispanic Education
The Grove School
The Language Academy of Sacramento
The Learning Choice Academy
The O'Farrell Charter Schools
Urban Charter Schools Collective
Valley Charter School

Valley Life Charter Schools
Vaughn Next Century Learning Center
Ventura Charter School of Arts and Global Education
Vibrant Minds Charter School
Vista Charter Public Schools
Voices College-Bound Language Academies
Vox Collegiate
Western Sierra Charter Schools
Westlake Charter School
William Finch Charter School
WISH Community and Academy Schools
Yes Charter Academy
YouthBuild Charter School of California
YPI Charter Schools
Yuba County Career Preparatory Charter School

OPPOSITION

None received

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