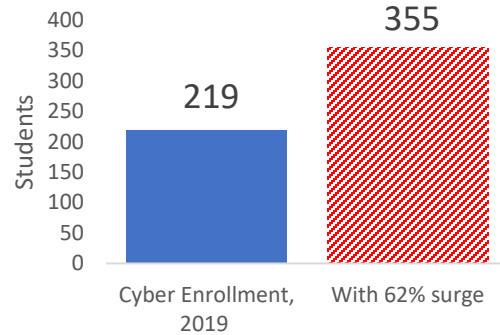


**House District 39 - Representative Michael Puskaric**

**Payments to cyber charters up by \$4.1 million in House District 39  
Failure to act now could increase property taxes by over 2 percent**

**Cyber charter costs are growing rapidly.**

Before the pandemic, 219 students in House District 39 were enrolled in cyber charters. Cyber enrollment has since surged by over 60% statewide, pushing estimated enrollment to over 355 students.



Because of sharply higher cyber enrollment, **cyber tuition costs in House District 39 will jump by an additional \$4.1 million this year, a shocking 122 percent increase** over the comparable tuition expense in 2019.

Rising cyber enrollment intensifies pressure on local property taxes. To cover this new cost, **House District 39 school districts would have to raise property taxes by 2.63 % on average.**

**The current system of setting charter school tuition rates is broken.** House District 26 school districts currently pay up to \$34,310 in special education tuition and \$15,894 for other students. That is significantly more than the actual costs of providing an online education and is a boon to cyber charter operators.

**HB 272 will save House District 39 over \$700,000 by bringing charter school tuition in line with payments to other public schools.** The bill standardizes cyber charter tuition at \$9,500 and requires charter schools to use the same criteria as all public schools to calculate special education tuition.

HB 272 Reforms	House District 39 Savings
Standardize cyber tuition at \$9,500	\$785,838
Special Education Tuition Reform	\$-41,793
<b>Total Savings</b>	<b>\$744,045</b>

*Sources: Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials (for cyber tuition expense increases and property tax estimates) and PDE (for enrollment, tuition rates, and savings estimate)*