

Ullo

SB No. 70

Relative to charter schools:

Present law (R.S. 17:3983(A)(4)) provides, with certain exceptions noted below, that no more than 42 charters may be entered into by all chartering authorities.

Proposed law deletes present law.

Present law authorizes a local school board to enter into any charter it finds valid, complete, financially well-structured, and educationally sound after meeting the requirements of the Charter School Demonstration Programs Law. Specifies that each charter entered into shall be reported by the local school board to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) not less than two business days following the event. Provides that if at any time prior to December first of each chartering period, the number of such charters would result in a total of 42 charters having been entered into, BESE shall notify all local school boards and no more chartering shall be permitted.

Proposed law retains present law except deletes provision requiring BESE notice when the number of charters entered into reaches 42 and prohibition on permitting more charters.

Present law authorizes BESE to approve applications for charters it has determined acceptable pursuant to certain statutorily specified criteria (R.S. 17:3981(2)) until the limit of 42 is reached. Specifies that applications may be approved only from May 1st of any one year through January 31st of the next year.

Proposed law retains present law except removes the statewide limit of 42 charters on BESE authority to approve acceptable charter applications. (Note: See also SCR No. 9 of the 2005 1st Ex. Session relative to the suspension of present law.)

Present law requires a charter school to begin operation by not later than 24 months after the final approval of the charter, unless such charter school is engaged in desegregation compliance issues and therefore must begin operation by not later than 36 months. Specifies that if such operation does not occur, the charter for that school shall be automatically revoked although a new charter may be proposed if the limit on the total number of charter schools allowed in the state has not been reached.

Proposed law retains present law except removes the limitation on permitting a new charter to be proposed relative to the state reaching the total number of allowable charter schools.

Present law provides that any proposal submitted but not approved by either the local school board or BESE may be resubmitted to either board during the same approval cycle after significant revision. Provides additionally, however, that if a proposal is not approved by the local school board and then also not approved by BESE within the same approval cycle, then the proposal shall be submitted to the local school board for their consideration during the next approval cycle prior to being submitted to BESE.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that a charter school, once approved, may begin operation only in July, August, or September of a given year. Also provides that such school shall not begin operation sooner than eight months after such approval is granted.

Proposed law retains present law. (Note: See also SCR No. 9 of the 2005 1st Ex. Session relative to the suspension of present law.)

Present law (Charter School Demonstration Programs Law) (R.S. 17:3983(F)(1)), provides, in part, that certain present law provisions (R.S. 17:3983(A)(4) ) specifying a limit of 42 allowable charters by all chartering authorities and related provisions based on such limitation shall not apply to or limit or restrict the number of Type 5 charters (Recovery School District charter schools). Also specifies other provisions of the charter school law that do not apply to Type 5 charters.

Proposed law revises present law statutory citations to reflect proposed law removal of the limit on the number of allowable charters. Also deletes present law provision that the removed limitation does not apply to or limit or restrict the number of Type 5 charters.

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 17:3983(A)(4) and (F)(1))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the engrossed bill.

1. Adds provision revising certain present law statutory citations to reflect proposed law changes relative to deleting the limit on the number of allowable charters.
2. Adds effective date provision.