

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 172 (SB 316)

2024 Regular Session

Miguez

Existing law provides for the revision, revocation, and renewal of charter schools. Prior law provided that an approved school charter is valid for an initial period of four years and may be extended for a maximum initial term of five years, contingent on the results of a review conducted after the completion of the third year.

New law increases the initial period of validity from four years to five years and changes the review time period from the end of the third year to the end of the fourth year.

Existing law requires a charter authorizer to provide to its charter school the criteria for renewal.

New law specifies that the criteria are to include academic performance and progress indices and distinguish between schools with and without selective admissions criteria as well as those with alternative educational models.

New law allows a chartering authority to extend the charter contract term by the same length of time as the impacting occurrence in instances where the school does not receive a school performance score, the charter school qualifies as a "severe impact school" as defined by the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education, or there are other extraordinary circumstances as provided in the policy of the chartering authority.

Existing law allows the revocation of a charter under specified circumstances.

New law adds that as an alternative to revocation, the charter authority may reconstitute the governing body of the charter holder if the chartering authority determines that the governing body of the charter holder has done one of the following:

- (1) Committed a violation of law relative to the finances of the school or the health, safety, or welfare of the students enrolled at the school.
- (2) Failed to satisfy accountability provisions prescribed by the charter or the chartering authority.
- (3) Failed to meet generally accepted accounting standards of fiscal management.
- (4) Committed material violations of the bylaws of the organization or nonprofit laws of the state.
- (5) Become imminently insolvent as determined by the chartering authority.

New law provides that the action of the chartering authority to reorganize or reconstitute the governing body of the charter holder is to be based on the best interest of the public charter school's students, the severity of the violation, any previous violation the school has committed, and the accreditation status of the school and is to be implemented after a public hearing.

Effective May 23, 2024.

(Amends R.S. 17:3992(A)(1) and (2)(b) and (D) and 3998(B); adds R.S. 17:3992(A)(2)(d) and (E))