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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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DIGEST

SB 522 Original 2026 Regular Session Edmonds

Present law provides for different types of charter schools according to the charter authorizer (either a local school board or BESE) and the proposal and authorization process for each, which varies depending on the type of charter school.

Present law provides that a Type 2 charter school is authorized by BESE and operates pursuant to a charter contract between the charter operator and BESE. Present law includes corporate partner charter schools, within Type 2 charter schools, and defines "corporate partner" to include any legal entity registered with the secretary of state, except those holding gaming licenses, and also includes regional airports and federal or state entities or agencies, including public postsecondary education institutions.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally provides that a vocational and technical education charter school (vo-tech charter school) may apply directly to BESE for a Type 2 charter upon obtaining a resolution of support from the La. Board of Commerce and Industry (Bd. of Commerce), in lieu of securing a corporate partner as required by present law. Proposed law requires the application to include the applicable economic sector, the vocational and technical programs to be offered, alignment with high-demand and high-wage jobs or La. Works "STAR Jobs", maximum enrollment, and a statement that the school is not aligned with the gaming industry.

Proposed law requires the board's resolution of support to specify:

- (1) The economic sector in which demand exists for vocational and technical education.
- (2) The types of training or skills required for employment within that sector.

Proposed law authorizes a vo-tech charter school to enroll students without regard to geographic limitations and to provide an enrollment preference, not to exceed 50% of total enrollment, for students whose parent or legal guardian is employed or resides within the designated economic sector. Proposed law requires the charter agreement to specify enrollment limits and the percentage reserved for such preference.

Proposed law authorizes industry representatives to serve on the charter governing or management board, subject to applicable law, and prohibits participation by persons affiliated with the gaming industry.

Proposed law authorizes businesses within the designated economic sector to enter into memoranda

of understanding with the school to provide support, including internships, career counseling, tutoring, and enrichment activities.

Proposed law defines "economic sector" as a geographic area where facilities require vocational and technical education to support employment needs and prohibits inclusion of gaming-related entities within such sector for purposes of present law.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 17:3983(A)(2)(a)(i); adds R.S. 17:3983(A)(2)(a)(v) and 3991.2 and R.S. 51:934)