
DIGEST

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HB 21 Original

2015 Regular Session

Edwards

Abstract: Prohibits the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) from authorizing charter schools under certain circumstances.

Present law, relative to charter schools, authorizes various groups to form a nonprofit corporation for the purpose of proposing a charter; provides for submission of the proposed charter to the local school board or to BESE.

Present law provides that each proposal for a Type 1 or Type 3 charter school shall first be made to the local school board with jurisdiction where the school is to be located by submitting a written proposal. If the local school board denies the proposal, or if conditions placed on the proposal by the local school board are not acceptable to the chartering group, then the proposal may be submitted to BESE.

Present law provides that BESE shall enter into any proposed charter that it determines is a valid, complete, financially well-structured, and educationally sound proposal that offers potential for fulfilling the purposes of present law.

Proposed law retains present law but prohibits BESE from entering into a proposed charter if the proposed school would be located in a school system that, in its most recent evaluation under the accountability system, received a designation of "A" or "B" and the school board that governs the local school system previously denied or placed conditions on the same or a substantially similar proposal.

Proposed law provides for an exception to proposed law prohibition with respect to proposals that seek to convert a preexisting school that received a designation of "F" or that seek to create a school that would predominantly enroll students with exceptionalities as defined in present law except gifted or talented students.

(Amends R.S. 17:3981(2))