
DIGEST

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HB 674 Original

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Nancy Landry

Abstract: Provides relative to considerations the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), local school boards, and local charter authorizers shall make in their review of charter proposals and that BESE shall make in entering into proposed charters, reviewing proposed charter authorizers, and recruiting chartering groups.

Present law provides that its purpose as it pertains to charter schools is to provide opportunities for educators and others interested in educating students to form, operate, or be employed within a charter school designed to accomplish one or more of the following objectives:

- (1) Improve learning and, in general, the public school system.
- (2) Increase learning opportunities and access to quality education.
- (3) Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods and a variety of governance, management, and administrative structures.
- (4) Require appropriate assessment and measurement of academic learning results.
- (5) Account better and more thoroughly for educational results.
- (6) Create new professional opportunities for teachers and other school employees, including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning program at the school site.

Present law requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), local school boards, and local charter authorizers, when reviewing a charter proposal, to determine whether it offers potential for fulfilling these present law purposes. Present law also requires BESE to enter into any charter that meets this criterion and consider this same criterion when reviewing a proposed local charter authorizer. Proposed law retains present law except revises this criterion throughout present law to require these entities to determine whether what is being proposed offers a substantial likelihood – rather than potential – to fulfill present law purposes.

Present law also requires BESE to actively recruit chartering groups offering a program that addresses regional workforce needs. Proposed law adds that in addition to addressing such needs, chartering groups actively recruited by BESE shall offer a substantial likelihood for fulfilling present law purposes.

(Amends R.S. 17:3981(2), (4), and (8), 3981.1(A)(3), 3981.2(A)(1)(a), and 3982(A)(1)(a)(i))