

Subject Charter Schools

Authors Feist

Analyst Cristina Parra

Date February 12, 2024

Overview

This bill amends various statutes relating to charter schools, including statutes relating to the purpose of charter schools, review of the authorizer's performance, administrator training, and conflicts of interest among board members.

Summary

| Section | Description |
|---------|-------------|
|---------|-------------|

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Goal and purposes. Modifies statement declaring purpose of charter schools. Requires a charter school to identify the purposes it will address in the charter contract and document the implementation of those purposes in the school's annual report. Adds implementation of the purposes to the authorizer's performance review of the school. |
| 2 | Definitions. Expands definition of "immediate family." |
| 3 | Roles, responsibilities, and requirements of authorizers. Modifies duties of authorizers. Requires an authorizer to ensure schools it authorizes have autonomy, fulfill purposes of a charter school, and are accountable under the terms of the charter contract. Adds responsibilities relating to approving or denying applications, and oversight and evaluation of the school's performance, and other duties. Requires the authorizer to document staff's completion of training requirements. |
| 4 | Application content. Eliminates requirement that authorizer application include an assurance specifying the organization is committed to serving as an authorizer until the commissioner |

| Section | Description |
|---------|---|
| | terminates the authorizer’s ability to authorize charter schools or the organization withdraws as an approved authorizer. |
| 5 | Review by commissioner. Modifies duties of commissioner related to review of authorizer’s performance. Prohibits the commissioner from penalizing an authorizer for not chartering additional schools or for the absence of complaints against an authorizer; or for not undertaking a role beyond those in the authorizer’s approved policies, procedures, or process, the charter contract, or statute. |
| 6 | Board of directors. Requires the initial board of directors and school developers to comply with training requirements in statute upon incorporating the school. Modifies requirements for transitioning to ongoing board. Modifies board membership criteria; modifies requirements for a teacher on the board and prohibits an administrator or supervisor from serving on the board. Prohibits a person from serving on more than one charter school board at the same time. Modifies requirements for changing board’s governing structure, board election requirements, board nepotism policy requirements, and board training requirements. Requires annual assessment of the board’s performance to be reported in the school’s annual report. |
| 7 | Causes for nonrenewal or termination of charter school contract. Requires hearing on authorizer’s decision to not renew or terminate the contract to be recorded by audio recording, video recording, or a court reporter. Requires recording to be preserved for three years and be made available to the public. |
| 8 | Admission requirements and enrollment. Requires a staff member to be employed for at least 480 hours in a school calendar year for the staff member’s child to be eligible for an enrollment preference. Modifies list of conditions for determining when a student formally withdraws from a charter school. |
| 9 | Administrators. Requires charter school to establish qualifications for persons who hold administrative, academic supervision, or instructional leadership positions. Provides minimum qualifications. Requires a person performing administrative, academic supervision, or instructional leadership positions with and without an administrator’s license to complete specific training. Prohibits an administrator from serving as a paid administrator or consult with another charter school unless the board approves it by two-thirds vote. Prohibits a charter school administrator from serving on the board of another charter school. |

| Section | Description |
|---------|---|
| 10 | <p>Conflicts of interest.</p> <p>Prohibits a charter school employee or board member from serving on the board or decision-making committee of the school's authorizer. Requires an employee or school board member to disclose to the board any paid compensation received from an authorizer.</p> |
| 11 | <p>Dissemination of information.</p> <p>Requires charter schools to disseminate information about the school's offerings and enrollment procedures to families that reflect the diversity of Minnesota's population and targeted groups; lists persons included in targeted groups. Requires dissemination activities to be included in school's annual report and in authorizer's performance review of the school.</p> <p>Eliminates requirement that charter school include financial information about its authorizer in school materials.</p> |



**MN HOUSE
RESEARCH**

Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.

www.house.mn.gov/hrd | 651-296-6753 | 155 State Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155