

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 1372

DATE: April 5, 2011

Version: As introduced

Authors: Woodard and others

Subject: Charter school clarifications

Analyst: Lisa Larson, 651-296-8036

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

This bill proposes to further clarify changes made to Minnesota's charter school law in 2009.

- 1 Authorizer.** (b) Clarifies the eligibility criteria for a charitable organization authorized to sponsor/authorize a charter school. Excludes nonpublic sectarian or religious institutions that were not approved as a sponsor/authorizer before July 1, 2009.

(d) Makes a technical change requiring an eligible authorizer to submit an application for approval to the education commissioner instead of an affidavit.

(f) Requires a sponsor/authorizer that chartered a school before August 1, 2009, to reapply to the education commissioner by August 3, 2011, for approval to continue as an authorizer. Makes an authorizer that fails to submit a timely application to the commissioner ineligible to authorize a school.

(h) Allows the education commissioner to take corrective action against an authorizer for any good cause shown.
- 2 Formation of school.** (g) Requires one member of the charter school board of directors to be a licensed teacher who is employed as a teacher at the school and another board member to be the parent of a student enrolled in the charter school who is not employed by the charter school. Allows the chief financial officer and chief administrator to serve only as ex-officio nonvoting board members and precludes charter school employees from serving as board members unless they serve in their capacity as a licensed teacher.
- 3 Charter contract.** Adds a term to the charter school contract that requires a charter school to provide for indemnifying and holding harmless the commissioner and authorizer and their officers, agents, and employees from any suit, claim or liability arising under the charter school contract or from the operation of the charter school.
- 4 Audit report.** Requires an entity that provides financial services to a charter school to make audit information available to the commissioner upon request.

- 5 **Causes for nonrenewal or termination.** Allows the education commissioner to terminate an existing charter school contract if the charter school has committed multiple violations of law or a major violation of law, including a violation of the state or federal constitution.
- 6 **Payment of aids to charter schools.** Requires a charter school to have a valid, signed contract on file with the department of education at least 15 days before the date when the department makes the first state aid payment to the charter school in the fiscal year.
- 7 **Transitional authorizer.** Allows a previously approved charter school authorizer that is ineligible to continue to authorize a charter school after August 3, 2011, to continue to authorize an existing charter school until June 30, 2012. Requires a charter school that is operating under a contract with an ineligible authorizer to enter into a contract with an eligible approved authorizer by June 30, 2012.

Makes this section effective immediately.