

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Clarifies the selection and election of a charter school board of directors. Establishes student performance expectations for renewing a charter school contract. Identifies student performance outcomes leading to the termination of a charter school contract. Gives charter schools the ability to employ alternatively licensed teachers. Provides for full payment of state aid to a charter school in the first three years of operation.

- 1 Purposes.** Makes improving pupil learning and student achievement the primary purpose for establishing charter schools. Declares the remaining statutory purposes to be additional purposes.
- 2 Formation of school.** Allows the initial board of directors to serve as the ongoing board of directors for a charter school or decide to hold a timely election for a board of directors, consistent with school articles and bylaws. States that school staff members and parents of enrolled children are the only eligible voters. Prohibits charter school employees from serving on the board of directors unless the member is a licensed teacher employed at or under contract to the school. Requires board bylaws to outline board process and procedures for replacing an elected board with a board appointed by the nonprofit corporation operating the charter school. Allows a board to change its governance model or replace an elected board with an appointed board only with the authorizer's approval. Allows an additional site approved by the commissioner to receive start-up aid available to new charter schools.

Makes this section effective for the 2012-2013 school year and later.

- 3 Charter contract.** For purposes of reviewing a charter contract, requires in the previous three school years that at least 35 percent of all tested students demonstrate proficiency on state reading and math assessments and that the percent of students demonstrating "on-track" growth in reading and math meets or exceeds the statewide average for the same grade span unless the charter school serves only students eligible to participate in the graduation incentives program or 50 percent or more of enrolled students are students with disabilities. Requires charter school operators seeking to have the charter school contract renewed to identify the purposes for the charter school most important to renewing the charter contract.

Makes this section effective for the 2012-2013 school year and later.

- 4 Pupil performance.** Requires a charter school to meet pupil performance outcomes contained in the charter school contract.
- 5 Employment and other operating matters.** Allows charter schools to employ teachers who (i) hold valid out-of-state teaching licenses or have completed an alternative teacher preparation and licensure program in Minnesota or elsewhere, (ii) have successfully completed the teachers' basic skills exam in reading, writing, and math, and (iii) have taught full time for at least two school years in a school where 50 percent or more of enrolled students were eligible for a free or reduced price lunch.

Makes this section effective for the 2012-2013 school year and later.

- 6 Causes for nonrenewal or termination of charter school contract.** (e) Directs the education commissioner to terminate an existing contract between an authorizer and charter school at the end of the school year, after notifying the board of directors, if in the previous three consecutive school years the charter school (i) had less than 35 percent of all tested students demonstrate proficiency on state reading and math assessments and (ii) had a lower percentage of students demonstrate "on-track" growth in state reading and math assessments than the statewide average for the same grade span served by the school. Exempts from this paragraph a charter school serving only students eligible to participate in the graduation incentives program or where 50 percent or more of enrolled students are students with disabilities.

Defines "on-track" growth to mean students who have demonstrated proficiency and medium or high growth on state reading and math assessments or students who have not demonstrated proficiency but have demonstrated high growth on state reading and math assessments.

Makes this section effective for the 2012-2013 school year and later.

- 7 Payment of aids to charter schools.** Provides for full payment of aid for a charter school in its first three years of operation.

Makes this section effective for aid payments for fiscal years 2013 and later.