

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 50th Legislature (2005)

SENATE BILL 501

By: Wilcoxson

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Section 3-132, which relates to charter school applications; clarifying language; removing prohibition on entire school districts becoming a charter school; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 3-132, is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-132. A. The Oklahoma Charter Schools Act shall apply only to charter schools formed and operated under the provisions of the act. Charter schools shall be sponsored only as follows:

1. By a ~~local~~ school district with an average daily membership of five thousand (5,000) or more and which all or part of the school district is located in a county having more than five hundred thousand (500,000) population according to the latest federal Decennial Census; or

2. By a technology center school district only when the charter school is located in a ~~local~~ school district served by the technology center school district and only if the ~~local~~ school district has an average daily membership of five thousand (5,000) or more and which all or part of the ~~local~~ school district is located in a county having more than five hundred thousand (500,000) population according to the latest federal Decennial Census.

Additional charter schools may be sponsored as provided for in Section 3-133 of this title.

Charter schools formed pursuant to the act shall serve as a pilot program to demonstrate the potential of expanding charter schools to other parts of the state. Any charter or enterprise school operating in the state pursuant to an agreement with the board of education of a school district on July 1, 1999, may continue to operate pursuant to that agreement or may contract with the board of education of the school district pursuant to the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act. Nothing in the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act shall prohibit a school district from applying for exemptions from certain education-related statutory requirements as provided for in the Education Deregulation Act.

B. For purposes of the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act, "charter school" means a public school established by contract with a board of education of a school district or an area vocational-technical school district pursuant to the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act to provide learning that will improve student achievement and as defined in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. 8065.

C. A charter school may consist of a new school site, new school sites ~~or~~, all or any portion of an existing school site. ~~An, or an entire school district may not become a charter school site.~~

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2005.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.