

ENROLLED SENATE  
BILL NO. 586

By: Ford of the Senate

and

Shumate and McDaniel  
(Jeannie) of the House

An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001, Sections 3-132, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 257, O.S.L. 2007, 3-134, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 257, O.S.L. 2007 and 3-142, as last amended by Section 4, Chapter 257, O.S.L. 2007 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Sections 3-132, 3-134 and 3-142), which relate to the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act; authorizing sponsorship of charter schools by federally recognized Indian tribes in certain area on certain property; modifying sponsorship of a charter school; authorizing certain statewide organizations to contract for a charter school; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 3-132, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 257, O.S.L. 2007 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, 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 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;

2. By a technology center school district only when the charter school is located in a 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 school district is located in a county having more than five hundred thousand (500,000) population according to the latest Federal Decennial Census; ~~or~~

3. By a comprehensive or regional institution that is a member of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education only when the charter school is located in a school district that has 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. In addition, the institution shall have a teacher education program accredited by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation and have a branch campus or constituent agency physically located within the school district in which the charter school is located; or

4. By a federally recognized Indian tribe only when the charter school is located in a school district that has an average daily membership of five thousand (5,000) or more and all or part of which school district is located in a county having more than five hundred thousand (500,000) population according to the latest Federal Decennial Census on property held in trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs of the United States Department of the Interior for the benefit of the federally recognized Indian tribe.

B. 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 Educational Deregulation Act.

C. Beginning January 1, 2008, not more than three new charter schools shall be established each fiscal year in each county in the state having more than five hundred thousand (500,000) population according to the latest Federal Decennial Census. For purposes of this subsection, a "new charter school" shall mean a charter school proposed by an applicant that has never had a contract with a sponsor.

D. 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, an area vocational-technical school district, ~~or a higher education institution,~~ or a federally recognized Indian tribe 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.

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

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 3-134, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 257, O.S.L. 2007 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 3-134), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-134. A. For written applications filed after January 1, 2008, prior to submission of the application to a proposed sponsor seeking to establish a charter school, the applicant shall be required to complete training which shall not exceed ten (10) hours provided by the State Department of Education on the process and requirements for establishing a charter school. The Department shall develop and implement the training by January 1, 2008. The Department may provide the training in any format and manner that the Department determines to be efficient and effective including, but not limited to, web-based training.

B. Except as otherwise provided for in Section 3-137 of this title, an applicant seeking to establish a charter school shall

submit a written application to the proposed sponsor as prescribed in subsection E of this section. The application shall include:

1. A mission statement for the charter school;
2. A description of the organizational structure and the governing body of the charter school;
3. A financial plan for the first three (3) years of operation of the charter school and a description of the treasurer or other officers or persons who shall have primary responsibility for the finances of the charter school. Such person shall have demonstrated experience in school finance or the equivalent thereof;
4. A description of the hiring policy of the charter school;
5. The name of the applicant or applicants and requested sponsor;
6. A description of the facility and location of the charter school;
7. A description of the grades being served;
8. An outline of criteria designed to measure the effectiveness of the charter school;
9. A demonstration of support for the charter school from residents of the school district which may include but is not limited to a survey of the school district residents or a petition signed by residents of the school district; and
10. Documentation that the applicants completed charter school training as set forth in subsection A of this section.

C. A board of education of a public school district, public body, public or private college or university, private person, a statewide organization that represents and whose members are public school teachers, or private organization may contract with a sponsor to establish a charter school. A private school shall not be eligible to contract for a charter school under the provisions of the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act.

D. The sponsor of a charter school is the board of education of a school district, the board of education of a technology center school district, ~~or~~ a higher education institution, or a federally recognized Indian tribe which meets the criteria established in Section 3-132 of this title. Any board of education of a school district in the state may sponsor one or more charter schools. The physical location of a charter school sponsored by a board of education of a school district or a technology center school district shall be within the boundaries of the sponsoring school district.

E. An applicant for a charter school may submit an application to a proposed sponsor which shall either accept or reject sponsorship of the charter school within ninety (90) days of receipt of the application. If the proposed sponsor rejects the application, it shall notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the rejection. The applicant may submit a revised application for reconsideration to the proposed sponsor within thirty (30) days after receiving notification of the rejection. The proposed sponsor shall accept or reject the revised application within thirty (30) days of its receipt.

F. A sponsor of a charter school shall notify the State Board of Education when it accepts sponsorship of a charter school. The notification shall include a copy of the charter of the charter school. The Board shall determine if the new charter school will exceed the limit established in subsection C of Section 3-132 of this title. If the new charter school does exceed the limit, the Board shall not allocate funding for the charter school as provided for in Section 3-142 of this title.

G. If a proposed sponsor rejects the revised application for a charter school, the applicant may proceed to mediation or binding arbitration or both mediation and binding arbitration as provided in the Dispute Resolution Act and the rules promulgated pursuant thereto. The applicant shall contact the early settlement program for the county in which the charter school would be located. If the parties proceed to binding arbitration, a panel of three arbitrators shall be appointed by the director of the early settlement program handling the dispute. The proposed sponsor shall pay the cost for any mediation or arbitration requested pursuant to this section.

H. If a board of education of a technology center school district ~~or~~, a higher education institution, or a federally recognized Indian tribe accepts sponsorship of a charter school, the administrative, fiscal and oversight responsibilities of the technology center school district ~~or~~, the higher education institution, or the federally recognized Indian tribe shall be listed in the contract. No responsibilities shall be delegated to a local school district unless the local school district agrees to assume the responsibilities.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 3-142, as last amended by Section 4, Chapter 257, O.S.L. 2007 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 3-142), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-142. A. For purposes of funding, a charter school sponsored by a board of education of a school district shall be considered a site within the school district in which the charter school is located. The student membership of the charter school shall be considered separate from the student membership of the district in which the charter school is located for the purpose of calculating weighted average daily membership pursuant to Section 18-201.1 of this title and State Aid pursuant to Section 18-200.1 of this title. For charter schools sponsored by a board of education of a school district, the sum of the separate calculations for the charter school and the school district shall be used to determine the total State Aid allocation for the district in which the charter school is located. A charter school shall receive from the sponsoring school district, the State Aid revenue generated by its students for the applicable year, less up to five percent (5%) of the total, which may be retained by the school district as a fee for administrative services rendered. For charter schools sponsored by the board of education of a technology center school district ~~or~~, a higher education institution, or a federally recognized Indian tribe, the State Aid allocation for the charter school shall be distributed by the State Board of Education. Not more than five percent (5%) of the total allocation may be charged by the sponsor as a fee for administrative services rendered. The State Board of Education shall determine the policy and procedure for making payments to a charter school.

B. The weighted average daily membership for the first year of operation of a charter school shall be determined initially by multiplying the actual enrollment of students as of August 1 by 1.333. The charter school shall receive revenue equal to that which would be generated by the estimated weighted average daily membership calculated pursuant to this subsection. At midyear, the allocation for the charter school shall be adjusted using the first quarter weighted average daily membership for the charter school calculated pursuant to subsection A of this section.

C. A charter school shall be eligible to receive any other aid, grants or revenues allowed to other schools. A charter school sponsored by the board of education of a technology center school district ~~or~~, a higher education institution, or a federally recognized Indian tribe shall be considered a local education agency for purposes of funding.

D. A charter school, in addition to the money received from the state, may receive money from any other source. Any unexpended nonstate funds, excluding local revenue, may be reserved and used for future purposes.

SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2009.

Passed the Senate the 6th day of May, 2009.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 15th day of April, 2009.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives