

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 53rd Legislature (2011)

3 HOUSE BILL 1855

By: Shumate

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001,
8 Section 3-136, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 439,
9 O.S.L. 2008 (70 O.S. Supp. 2010, Section 3-136),
10 which relates to rules and standards for charter
11 schools; deleting restriction on levying taxes and
12 issuing bonds; providing an effective date; and
13 declaring an emergency.

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

15 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 3-136, as
16 amended by Section 1, Chapter 439, O.S.L. 2008 (70 O.S. Supp. 2010,
17 Section 3-136), is amended to read as follows:

18 Section 3-136. A. A charter school shall adopt a charter which
19 will ensure compliance with the following:

20 1. A charter school shall comply with all federal regulations
21 and state and local rules and statutes relating to health, safety,
22 civil rights and insurance. By January 1, 2000, the State
23 Department of Education shall prepare a list of relevant rules and
24 statutes which a charter school must comply with as required by this
paragraph and shall annually provide an update to the list;

1 2. A charter school shall be nonsectarian in its programs,
2 admission policies, employment practices, and all other operations.
3 A sponsor may not authorize a charter school or program that is
4 affiliated with a nonpublic sectarian school or religious
5 institution;

6 3. The charter school may provide a comprehensive program of
7 instruction for a prekindergarten program, a kindergarten program or
8 any grade between grades one and twelve. Instruction may be
9 provided to all persons between the ages of four (4) and twenty-one
10 (21) years. A charter school may offer a curriculum which
11 emphasizes a specific learning philosophy or style or certain
12 subject areas such as mathematics, science, fine arts, performance
13 arts, or foreign language. The charter of a charter school which
14 offers grades nine through twelve shall specifically address whether
15 the charter school will comply with the graduation requirements
16 established in Section 11-103.6 of this title. No charter school
17 shall be chartered for the purpose of offering a curriculum for deaf
18 or blind students that is the same or similar to the curriculum
19 being provided by or for educating deaf or blind students that are
20 being served by the Oklahoma School for the Blind or the Oklahoma
21 School for the Deaf;

22 4. A charter school shall participate in the testing as
23 required by the Oklahoma School Testing Program Act and the
24 reporting of test results as is required of a school district. A

1 charter school shall also provide any necessary data to the Office
2 of Accountability;

3 5. Except as provided for in the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act
4 and its charter, a charter school shall be exempt from all statutes
5 and rules relating to schools, boards of education, and school
6 districts;

7 6. A charter school, to the extent possible, shall be subject
8 to the same reporting requirements, financial audits, audit
9 procedures, and audit requirements as a school district. The State
10 Department of Education or State Auditor and Inspector may conduct
11 financial, program, or compliance audits. A charter school shall
12 use the Oklahoma Cost Accounting System to report financial
13 transactions to the sponsoring school district;

14 7. A charter school shall comply with all federal and state
15 laws relating to the education of children with disabilities in the
16 same manner as a school district;

17 8. A charter school shall provide for a governing body for the
18 school which shall be responsible for the policies and operational
19 decisions of the charter school;

20 9. A charter school shall not be used as a method of generating
21 revenue for students who are being home schooled and are not being
22 educated at an organized charter school site;

23 10. A charter school may not charge tuition or fees;

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1 11. A charter school shall provide instruction each year for at
2 least the number of days required in Section 1-109 of this title;

3 12. A charter school shall comply with the student suspension
4 requirements provided for in Section 24-101.3 of this title;

5 13. A charter school shall be considered a school district for
6 purposes of tort liability under The Governmental Tort Claims Act;

7 14. Employees of a charter school may participate as members of
8 the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma in accordance with
9 applicable statutes and rules if otherwise allowed pursuant to law;

10 15. A charter school may participate in all health and related
11 insurance programs available to the employees of the sponsor of the
12 charter school;

13 16. A charter school shall comply with the Oklahoma Open
14 Meeting Act and the Oklahoma Open Records Act; and

15 17. The governing body of a charter school shall be subject to
16 the same conflict of interest requirements as a member of a local
17 school board.

18 B. The charter of a charter school shall include a description
19 of the personnel policies, personnel qualifications, and method of
20 school governance, and the specific role and duties of the sponsor
21 of the charter school.

22 C. The charter of a charter school may be amended at the
23 request of the governing body of the charter school and upon the
24 approval of the sponsor.

1 D. A charter school may enter into contracts and sue and be
2 sued.

3 E. ~~The governing body of a charter school may not levy taxes or~~
4 ~~issue bonds.~~

5 F. The charter of a charter school shall include a provision
6 specifying the method or methods to be employed for disposing of
7 real and personal property acquired by the charter school upon
8 expiration or termination of the charter or failure of the charter
9 school to continue operations. Except as otherwise provided, any
10 real or personal property purchased with state or local funds shall
11 be retained by the sponsoring school district. If a charter school
12 that was previously sponsored by the board of education of a school
13 district continues operation within the school district under a new
14 charter sponsored by an entity authorized pursuant to Section 3-132
15 of this title, the charter school may retain any personal property
16 purchased with state or local funds for use in the operation of the
17 charter school until termination of the new charter or failure of
18 the charter school to continue operations.

19 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2011.

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

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