

BILL SUMMARY
2nd Session of the 54th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 573
Version:	Committee Substitute
Request Number:	10876
Author:	Rep. Nelson
Date:	4/24/14
Impact:	Not Required

Research Analysis

The measure stipulates the powers and duties of an authorizer of public charter schools, including the adoption of minimum standards; oversight through annual performance reviews; solicitation and evaluation of charter application; approval of quality applicants; rejection of weak or inadequate applicants; negotiation of charter contracts; performance and legal compliance monitoring; and determining if a contract merits renewal, nonrenewal, or revocation. Authorizers of a public charter school will be immune from civil and criminal liability with respect to all activities related to the school with which they have a contract. Beginning in 2015, authorizers must submit an annual report on their policies, procedures, and innovative methods that resulted in academic improvement. The annual report must include a performance report for the charter school. Authorizers are permitted to give priority to applicants that have previously established a charter school or similar program that has demonstrated academic success, organizational viability, and served a similar student population. The measure establishes the protocol for the closure of a charter school. It stipulates the contents of a charter school application and provides additional application requirements for public schools converting to a public charter school; virtual charter schools; and those charter schools that intend on contracting with an educational service provider for substantial educational services, management services, or both. Additionally, the measure provides considerations that must be made when deciding to approve or reject a charter application. Public charter schools must participate in state testing and provide any necessary data to the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability. Other than those provided for in act, public charter schools will be exempt from all statutes, rules, and policies relating to schools, boards of education, and school districts. Charter school contracts will be effective for 5 years from the first day of operation. The measure provides for the funding of public charter schools including the calculation of the weighted average daily membership. The Office of Educational Quality and Accountability will be responsible for overseeing the performance and effectiveness of all authorizers under this act. The measure establishes the charter school commission which will begin its duties on July 1, 2014. Any members of the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board still serving by this date will continue their service on the commission. The commission will operate with full autonomy outside the authority of the State Board of Education. Lastly, the measure repeals several sections of law under the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act.

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Fiscal Analysis

Not required.

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Other Considerations

None.

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