ENGROSSED HOUSE AMENDMENT
TO
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 782

By: Jolley, Loveless and Griffin of the Senate

and

Denney of the House

An Act relating to charter schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-132, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 212, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 3-132), which relates to the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act; modifying criteria for charter school sponsors; removing certain sponsor; allowing the State Board of Education to sponsor a certain number of charter schools in counties with certain population; allowing certain priority for charter schools; providing a definition; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-134, which relates to charter applications; modifying certain financial plan requirement; adding certain information required in application; providing for location of certain charter schools sponsored by the State Board of Education; allowing appeal of rejected application; removing option for certain mediation; providing powers and duties of a charter school sponsor; directing charter school sponsors to establish certain policies and procedures; providing immunity from liability to sponsors for certain activities; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-135, which relates to charter school contracts; adding certain requirements for charter school contracts; prohibiting serving students without certain contract; allowing a sponsor to establish certain requirements; providing criteria for the establishment of performance framework; prohibiting request for certain data; allowing charter school contracts for multiple schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-137, which relates to contract terms; allowing contract renewal with certain terms; requiring issuance of certain performance report; providing deadline for response; establishing renewal application guidelines; providing for certain consideration in making certain renewal decision;

removing option for certain mediation; directing the State Board of Education to establish a charter school ranking list; providing options for certain ranked charter schools; providing for certain calculation under certain conditions; directing the State Board of Education to consider certain information; requiring a charter school sponsor to appear before the State Board of Education after certain decision; allowing the State Board of Education to uphold or overturn certain decision; prohibiting the granting of a charter under certain conditions; exempting certain charter schools from certain application; providing procedures for charter school closure; directing charter school sponsors to develop certain processes; requiring sponsor to state certain reasons; requiring review of certain charter proposal; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-140, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 212, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 3-140), which relates to eligibility of students; prohibiting a charter school sponsor from restricting certain enrollment; providing mechanism for calculating certain capacity; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-142, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 212, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 3-142), which relates to funding; modifying reference to unexpended funds; prohibiting levying of taxes and issuance of bonds; allowing charter schools to enter into certain borrowing contracts; and directing responsibility for repayment.

AUTHOR: Add the following House Coauthor: Jordan

AMENDMENT NO. 1. Strike the title, enacting clause and entire bill and insert

"An Act relating to charter schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Sections 3-132, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 212, O.S.L. 2013, 3-134, 3-135, 3-137, 3-140, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 212, O.S.L. 2013 and 3-142, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 212, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2014, Sections 3-132, 3-140 and 3-142), which relate to

the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act; modifying list of authorized sponsors of charter schools; deleting certain conditions on certain sponsors; allowing the State Board of Education to sponsor charter schools under certain conditions; mandating that priority be given to certain charter schools serving certain students; mandating that priority be given to charter school applicants that meet certain conditions; listing factors for approving a new site or school; modifying definition; adding definition; adding information to be included in the charter school application; limiting location of certain charter schools; allowing for an appeal of a rejected application to the State Board of Education; deleting mediation and arbitration criteria; providing for certain type of binding arbitration for certain applicants; stating powers and duties of a sponsor; directing sponsors to establish procedures for accepting, approving and disapproving applications; requiring sponsors to develop and maintain chartering policies and practices that are consistent with certain principles and standards; limiting liability of sponsors; adding provisions required in the charter contract; prohibiting a charter school from serving students without a contract; allowing sponsors to establish preopening requirements and conditions; specifying basis for performance provisions of a contract; allowing submission of data in certain format; listing performance framework categories; limiting requests for metric or data; allowing applicants and sponsors to have multiple contracts or one contract for multiple schools; allowing for renewal for successive terms; requiring sponsors to issue performance reports and application renewal guidance before a certain time; specifying contents of performance reports; listing steps to be allowed under the application renewal guidance; requiring the application renewal guidance to include certain criteria; requiring charter renewal decisions to include certain criteria and actions; deleting certain mediation option; directing the State Board of Education to identify certain charter schools by school grades; allowing closure of a charter school identified at bottom of ranking; providing process for ranking under certain conditions; providing for review of sponsor's decision by the State Board of

Education and implementation of certain options; prohibiting charters by other sponsors for certain closed charter schools; exempting certain charter schools from closure requirements; listing considerations for closure; providing for suspension of certain charter school authorization; providing protocol for closing a charter school; directing sponsors to develop revocation and nonrenewal processes; requiring sponsors to state reasons for revocation or nonrenewal in a resolution; requiring review of certain charter school proposal by the Board; updating statutory language; prohibiting the sponsor of a charter school from restricting the number of students enrolled in a charter school; requiring the governing body of the charter school to determine capacity; specifying considerations; modifying type of funds that may be reserved; prohibiting charter schools from levying taxes or issuing bonds; allowing a charter school to enter into private contracts for certain purposes; and establishing responsibility for debt.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-132, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 212, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2014, 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~~ <u>any</u> 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~~ in the State of Oklahoma, provided such charter school shall only be located within the geographical boundaries of the sponsoring district and subject to the restrictions of Section 3-145.6 of this title;

2. ~~By a school district which has a school site that has been identified as in need of improvement by the State Board of Education pursuant to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended or reauthorized;~~

~~3.~~ By a technology center school district if the charter school is located in a school district served by the technology center school district ~~and the school district has an average daily membership of five thousand (5,000) or more and~~ in 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;

~~4.~~ 3. By a technology center school district if the charter school is located in a school district served by the technology center school district and the school district has a school site that has been identified as in need of improvement by the State Board of Education pursuant to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended or reauthorized;

~~5.~~ 4. By ~~a~~ an accredited comprehensive or regional institution that is a member of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or a community college if the charter school is located in a school

district ~~that has an average daily membership of five thousand (5,000) or more and~~ in 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~~;

~~6.~~ 5. By a comprehensive or regional institution that is a member of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education if the charter school is located in a school district that has a school site that has been identified as in need of improvement by the State Board of Education pursuant to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended or reauthorized. 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 in the State of Oklahoma;

~~7.~~ 6. By a federally recognized Indian tribe, operating a high school under the authority of the Bureau of Indian Affairs as of November 1, 2010, if the charter school is for the purpose of demonstrating native language immersion instruction, and is located within its former reservation or treaty area boundaries. For purposes of this paragraph, native language immersion instruction

shall require that educational instruction and other activities conducted at the school site are primarily conducted in the native language; ~~or~~

~~8.~~ 7. By the State Board of Education when the applicant of the charter school is the Office of Juvenile Affairs or the applicant has a contract with the Office of Juvenile Affairs to provide a fixed rate level E, D, or D+ group home service and the charter school is for the purpose of providing education services to youth in the custody or supervision of the state. Not more than two charter schools shall be sponsored by the Board as provided for in this paragraph during the period of time beginning July 1, 2010, through July 1, 2016; or

8. By the State Board of Education when the applicant has first been denied a charter by the local school district in which it seeks to operate. In counties with fewer than five hundred thousand (500,000) population, according to the latest Federal Decennial Census, the State Board of Education shall not sponsor more than five charter schools per year each year for the first five (5) years after the effective date of this act, with not more than one charter school sponsored in a single school district per year. In order to authorize a charter school under this section, the State Board of Education shall find evidence of all of the following:

a. a thorough and high-quality charter school application from the applicant based on the authorizing standards in subsection B of Section 3-134 of this title,

b. a clear demonstration of community support for the charter school, and

c. the grounds and basis of objection by the school district for denying the operation of the charter are not supported by the greater weight of evidence and the strength of the application.

B. An eligible non-school-district sponsor shall give priority to opening charter schools that serve at-risk student populations or students from low-performing traditional public schools.

C. An eligible non-school-district sponsor shall give priority to applicants that have demonstrated a record of operating at least one school or similar program that demonstrates academic success and organizational viability and serves student populations similar to those the proposed charter school seeks to serve. In assessing the potential for quality replication of a charter school, a sponsor shall consider the following factors before approving a new site or school:

1. Evidence of a strong and reliable record of academic success based primarily on student performance data, as well as other viable indicators, including financial and operational success;

2. A sound, detailed, and well-supported growth plan;

3. Evidence of the ability to transfer successful practices to a potentially different context that includes reproducing critical cultural, organizational and instructional characteristics;

4. Any management organization involved in a potential replication is fully vetted, and the academic, financial and operational records of the schools it operates are found to be satisfactory;

5. Evidence the program seeking to be replicated has the capacity to do so successfully without diminishing or putting at risk its current operations; and

6. A financial structure that ensures that funds attributable to each charter school within a network and required by law to be utilized by a school remain with and are used to benefit that school.

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, a conversion charter school, an area vocational-technical school district, a higher education institution, a federally recognized Indian tribe, or the State Board of Education 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.~~ E. For the purposes of the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act, "conversion charter school" means a charter school created by

converting all or any part of a traditional public school into a charter school which may be operated by the school district board of education or by an independent operating board elected by and accountable to the school district board of education.

F. 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. 2011, 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 including, but not limited to, background information of the organizational structure and the governing body of the charter school;

3. A financial plan for the first ~~three (3)~~ five (5) 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;

11. A description of the minimum and maximum enrollment planned per year for each term of the charter contract;

12. The proposed calendar for the charter school and sample daily schedule;

13. Unless otherwise authorized by law or regulation, a description of the academic program aligned with state standards;

14. A description of the instructional design of the charter school, including the type of learning environment, class size and structure, curriculum overview and teaching methods;

15. The plan for using internal and external assessments to measure and report student progress on the performance framework developed by the applicant in accordance with subsection C of Section 3-135 of this title;

16. The plans for identifying and successfully serving students with disabilities, students who are English language learners and students who are academically behind;

17. A description of cocurricular or extracurricular programs and how they will be funded and delivered;

18. Plans and time lines for student recruitment and enrollment, including lottery procedures;

19. The student discipline policies for the charter school, including those for special education students;

20. An organizational chart that clearly presents the organizational structure of the charter school, including lines of authority and reporting between the governing board, staff, any related bodies such as advisory bodies or parent and teacher

councils and any external organizations that will play a role in managing the school;

21. A clear description of the roles and responsibilities for the governing board, the leadership and management team for the charter school and any other entities shown in the organizational chart;

22. The leadership and teacher employment policies for the charter school;

23. Proposed governing bylaws;

24. Explanations of any partnerships or contractual partnerships central to the operations or mission of the charter school;

25. The plans for providing transportation, food service and all other significant operational or ancillary services;

26. Opportunities and expectations for parental involvement;

27. A detailed school start-up plan that identifies tasks, time lines and responsible individuals;

28. A description of the financial plan and policies for the charter school, including financial controls and audit requirements;

29. A description of the insurance coverage the charter school will obtain;

30. Start-up and five-year budgets with clearly stated assumptions;

31. Start-up and first-year cash-flow projections with clearly stated assumptions;

32. Evidence of anticipated fundraising contributions, if claimed in the application;

33. A sound facilities plan, including backup or contingency plans if appropriate;

34. A requirement that the charter school governing board meet at a minimum quarterly in the state and that for those charter schools outside of counties with a population of five hundred thousand (500,000) or more, that a majority of members are residents within the geographic boundary of the sponsoring entity; and

35. A requirement that the charter school follow the requirements of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act and Oklahoma Open Records Act.

C. A board of education of a public school district, public body, public or private college or university, private person, 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, a higher education institution, the State Board of Education, 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. The physical location of a charter school sponsored by the State Board of Education when the applicant of the charter school is the Office of Juvenile Affairs shall be where an Office of Juvenile Affairs facility for youth is located. The physical location of a charter school otherwise sponsored by the State Board of Education pursuant to paragraph 8 of subsection A of Section 3-132 of this title shall be in the school district in which the application originated.

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. Should the sponsor reject the application on reconsideration, the applicant may appeal the decision to the State

Board of Education with the revised application for review pursuant to paragraph 8 of subsection A of Section 3-132 of this title. The State Board of Education shall hear the appeal no later than sixty (60) days from the date received by the Board.

F. A board of education of a school district, board of education of a technology center school district, higher education institution, or federally recognized Indian tribe 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.

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~~ Applicants for charter schools proposed to be sponsored by an entity other than a school district pursuant to paragraph 1 of subsection A of Section 3-132 of this title may, upon rejection of the revised application, proceed to binding arbitration under the commercial

rules of the American Arbitration Association with costs of the arbitration to be borne by the proposed sponsor. Applicants for charter schools proposed to be sponsored by school districts pursuant to paragraph 1 of subsection A of Section 3-132 of this title may not proceed to binding arbitration but may be sponsored by the State Board of Education as provided in paragraph 8 of subsection A of Section 3-132 of this title.

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

I. A sponsor of a public charter school shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Provide oversight of the operations of charter schools in the state through annual performance reviews of charter schools and reauthorization of charter schools for which it is a sponsor;

2. Solicit and evaluate charter applications;

3. Approve quality charter applications that meet identified educational needs and promote a diversity of educational choices;

4. Decline to approve weak or inadequate charter applications;

5. Negotiate and execute sound charter contracts with each approved public charter school;

6. Monitor, in accordance with charter contract terms, the performance and legal compliance of charter schools; and

7. Determine whether each charter contract merits renewal, nonrenewal or revocation.

J. Sponsors shall establish a procedure for accepting, approving and disapproving charter school applications in accordance with subsection E of this section.

K. Sponsors shall be required to develop and maintain chartering policies and practices consistent with recognized principles and standards for quality charter authorizing as established by the State Department of Education in all major areas of authorizing responsibility, including organizational capacity and infrastructure, soliciting and evaluating charter applications, performance contracting, ongoing charter school oversight and evaluation and charter renewal decision-making.

L. Sponsors acting in their official capacity shall be immune from civil and criminal liability with respect to all activities related to a charter school with which they contract.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-135, is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-135. A. The sponsor of a charter school shall enter into a written contract with the governing body of the charter school. The contract shall incorporate the provisions of the charter of the charter school and contain, but shall not be limited to, the following provisions:

1. A description of the program to be offered by the school which complies with the purposes outlined in Section ~~11 of this act~~ 3-136 of this title;

2. Admission policies and procedures;

3. Management and administration of the charter school, including that a majority of the charter governing board members are residents of the State of Oklahoma and meet no less than quarterly in a public meeting within the boundaries of the school district in which the charter school is located or within the State of Oklahoma in the instance of multiple charter school locations by the same sponsor;

4. Requirements and procedures for program and financial audits;

5. A description of how the charter school will comply with the charter requirements set forth in the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act;

6. Assumption of liability by the charter school; ~~and~~

7. The term of the contract;

8. A description of the high standards of expectation and rigor for charter school plans and assurance that charter school plans adopted meet at least those standards;

9. Policies that require that the charter school be as equally free and open to all students as traditional public schools;

10. Procedures that require students enrolled in the charter school to be selected by lottery to ensure fairness if more students apply than a school has the capacity to accommodate;

11. Policies that require the charter school to be subject to the same academic standards and expectations as existing public schools; and

12. A description of the requirements and procedures for the charter school to receive funding in accordance with statutory requirements and guidelines for existing public schools.

B. A charter school shall not enter into an employment contract with any teacher or other personnel until the charter school has a contract with a sponsoring school district. The employment contract shall set forth the personnel policies of the charter school, including, but not limited to, policies related to certification, professional development evaluation, suspension, dismissal and nonreemployment, sick leave, personal business leave, emergency leave, and family and medical leave. The contract shall also specifically set forth the salary, hours, fringe benefits, and work conditions. The contract may provide for employer-employee

bargaining, but the charter school shall not be required to comply with the provisions of Sections 509.1 through 509.10 of ~~Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title. The contract shall conform to all applicable provisions set forth in Section ~~11 of this act~~ 3-136 of this title.

Upon contracting with any teacher or other personnel, the governing body of the charter school shall, in writing, disclose employment rights of the employees in the event the charter school closes or the charter is not renewed.

No charter school may begin serving students without a charter contract executed in accordance with the provisions of the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act and approved in an open meeting of the sponsor. The sponsor may establish reasonable preopening requirements or conditions to monitor the start-up progress of newly approved charter schools and ensure that each school is prepared to open smoothly on the date agreed and to ensure that each school meets all building, health, safety, insurance and other legal requirements for the opening of a school.

C. The performance provisions within the charter contract shall be based on a performance framework that clearly sets forth the academic and operational performance indicators, measures and metrics that will guide the evaluations of the charter school by the sponsor. The sponsor shall require a charter school to submit the data required in this section in the identical format that is

required by the State Department of Education of all public schools in order to avoid duplicative administrative efforts or allow a charter school to provide permission to the Department to share all required data with the sponsor of the charter school. The performance framework shall include indicators, measures and metrics for, at a minimum:

1. Student academic proficiency;

2. Student academic growth;

3. Achievement gaps in both proficiency and growth between major student subgroups;

4. Student attendance;

5. Recurrent enrollment from year to year as determined by the methodology used for public schools in Oklahoma;

6. In the case of high schools, graduation rates as determined by the methodology used for public schools in Oklahoma;

7. In the case of high schools, postsecondary readiness;

8. Financial performance and sustainability; and

9. Governing board performance and stewardship, including compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and terms of the charter contract.

D. The sponsor shall not request any metric or data from a charter school that it does not produce or publish for all school sites in the district or under its sponsorship, unless the metric or data is unique to a charter school.

E. A charter contract may provide for one or more schools by an applicant to the extent approved by the sponsor and consistent with applicable law. An applicant or the governing board of an applicant may hold one or more charter contracts. Each charter school that is part of a charter contract shall be separate and distinct from any other charter school under the same charter contract.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-137, is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-137. A. An approved contract for a charter school shall be effective for ~~not longer than~~ five (5) years from the first day of operation. A charter contract may be renewed for successive five-year terms of duration, although the sponsor may vary the term based on the performance, demonstrated capacities and particular circumstances of each charter school. A sponsor may grant renewal with specific conditions for necessary improvements to a charter school.

B. Prior to the beginning of the fourth year of operation of a charter school, the sponsor shall issue a charter school performance report and charter renewal application guidance to the school and the charter school board. The performance report shall summarize the performance record to date of the charter school, based on the data required by the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act and the charter contract and taking into consideration the percentage of at-risk students enrolled in the school, and shall provide notice of any

weaknesses or concerns perceived by the sponsor concerning the charter school that may jeopardize its position in seeking renewal if not timely rectified. The charter school shall have forty-five (45) days to respond to the performance report and submit any corrections or clarifications for the report.

C. 1. Prior to the beginning of the fifth year of operation, the charter school may apply for renewal of the contract with the sponsor. The renewal application guidance shall, at a minimum, provide an opportunity for the charter school to:

a. present additional evidence, beyond the data contained in the performance report, supporting its case for charter renewal,

b. describe improvements undertaken or planned for the school, and

c. detail the plan for the next charter term for the school.

2. The renewal application guidance shall include or refer explicitly to the criteria that will guide the renewal decisions of the sponsor, which shall be based on the performance framework set forth in the charter contract and consistent with the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act.

D. The sponsor may deny the request for renewal if it determines the charter school has failed to complete the obligations of the contract or comply with the provisions of the Oklahoma

Charter Schools Act. A sponsor shall give written notice of its intent to deny the request for renewal at least eight (8) months prior to expiration of the contract. In making charter renewal decisions, a sponsor shall:

1. Ground decisions on evidence of the performance of the school over the term of the charter contract in accordance with the performance framework set forth in the charter contract and shall take into consideration the percentage of at-risk students enrolled in the school;

2. Grant renewal to schools that have achieved the standards, targets and performance expectations as stated in the charter contract and are organizationally and fiscally viable and have been faithful to the terms of the contract and applicable law;

3. Ensure that data used in making renewal decisions are available to the school and the public; and

4. Provide a public report summarizing the evidence used as the basis for each decision.

~~B.~~ E. If a sponsor denies a request for renewal, the governing board of the sponsor may, if requested by the charter school, proceed to ~~mediation or~~ binding arbitration ~~or both~~ as provided for in subsection G of Section 3-134 of this title.

~~C.~~ F. A sponsor may terminate a contract during the term of the contract for failure to meet the requirements for student performance contained in the contract, failure to meet the standards

of fiscal management, violations of the law, or other good cause. The sponsor shall give at least ninety (90) days' written notice to the governing board prior to terminating the contract. The governing board may request, in writing, an informal hearing before the sponsor within fourteen (14) days of receiving notice. The sponsor shall conduct an informal hearing before taking action. If a sponsor decides to terminate a contract, the governing board may, if requested by the charter school, proceed to ~~mediation or~~ binding arbitration ~~or both~~ as provided for in subsection G of Section 3-134 of this title.

~~D.~~ G. 1. Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, the State Board of Education shall identify charter schools in the state that are ranked in the bottom five percent (5%) of all public schools as determined pursuant to Section 1210.545 of this title.

2. At the time of its charter renewal, based on an average of the current year and the two (2) prior operating years, a sponsor may close a charter school site identified as being among the bottom five percent (5%) of public schools in the state. The average of the current year and two (2) prior operating years shall be calculated by using the percentage ranking for each year divided by three, as determined by this subsection.

3. If there is a change to the calculation described in Section 1210.545 of this title that results in a charter school site that was not ranked in the bottom five percent (5%) being ranked in the

bottom five percent (5%), then the sponsor shall use the higher of the two rankings to calculate the ranking of the charter school site.

4. In the event that a sponsor fails to close a charter school site consistent with this subsection, the sponsor shall appear before the State Board of Education to provide support for its decision. The State Board of Education may, by majority vote, uphold or overturn the decision of the sponsor. If the decision of the sponsor is overturned by the State Board of Education, the Board may implement one of the following actions:

a. transfer the sponsorship of the charter school identified in this paragraph to another sponsor,

b. order the closure of the charter school identified in this paragraph at the end of the current school year, or

c. order the reduction of any administrative fee collected by the sponsor that is applicable to the charter school identified in this paragraph. The reduction shall become effective at the beginning of the month following the month the hearing of the sponsor is held by the State Board of Education.

5. A charter school that is closed by the State Board of Education pursuant to paragraph 4 of this subsection shall not be granted a charter by any other sponsor.

6. The requirements of this subsection shall not apply to a charter school that has been designed by the State Department of Education as implementing an alternative education program throughout the charter school.

7. In making a school site closure decision, the State Board of Education shall consider the following:

a. enrollment of students with special challenges such as drug or alcohol addiction, prior withdrawal from school, prior incarceration or other special circumstances,

b. high mobility of the student population resulting from the specific purpose of the charter school,

c. annual improvement in the performance of students enrolled in the charter school compared with the performance of students enrolled in the charter school in the immediately preceding school year, and

d. whether a majority of students attending the charter school under consideration for closure would likely revert to attending public schools with lower academic achievement, as demonstrated pursuant to Section 1210.545 of this title.

8. If the State Board of Education has closed or transferred authorization of at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the charter schools chartered by one sponsor pursuant to paragraph 4 of this

subsection, the authority of the sponsor to authorize new charter schools may be suspended by the Board until the Board approves the sponsor to authorize new charter schools. A determination under this paragraph to suspend the authority of a sponsor to authorize new charter schools shall identify the deficiencies that, if corrected, will result in the approval of the sponsor to authorize new charter schools.

H. If a sponsor terminates a contract or the charter school is closed, the closure shall be conducted in accordance with the following protocol:

1. Within two (2) calendar weeks of a final closure determination, the sponsor shall meet with the governing board and leadership of the charter school to establish a transition team composed of school staff, applicant staff and others designated by the applicant that will attend to the closure, including the transfer of students, student records and school funds;

2. The sponsor and transition team shall communicate regularly and effectively with families of students enrolled in the charter school, as well as with school staff and other stakeholders, to keep them apprised of key information regarding the closure of the school and their options and risks;

3. The sponsor and transition team shall ensure that current instruction of students enrolled in the charter school continues per the charter agreement for the remainder of the school year;

4. The sponsor and transition team shall ensure that all necessary and prudent notifications are issued to agencies, employees, insurers, contractors, creditors, debtors and management organizations; and

5. The governing board of the charter school shall continue to meet as necessary to take actions needed to wind down school operations, manage school finances, allocate resources and facilitate all aspects of closure.

I. A sponsor shall develop revocation and nonrenewal processes that are consistent with the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act and that:

1. Provide the charter school with a timely notification of the prospect of revocation or nonrenewal and of the reasons for possible closure;

2. Allow the charter school a reasonable amount of time in which to prepare a response;

3. Provide the charter school with an opportunity to submit documents and give testimony in a public hearing challenging the rationale for closure and in support of the continuation of the school at an orderly proceeding held for that purpose and prior to taking any final nonrenewal or revocation decision related to the school;

4. Allow the charter school access to representation by counsel to call witnesses on its behalf;

5. Permit the recording of the proceedings; and

6. After a reasonable period for deliberation, require a final determination be made and conveyed in writing to the charter school.

J. If a sponsor revokes or does not renew a charter, the sponsor shall clearly state in a resolution the reasons for the revocation or nonrenewal.

K. 1. Before a sponsor may issue a charter to a charter school governing body that has had its charter terminated or has been informed that its charter will not be renewed by the current sponsor, the sponsor shall request to have the proposal reviewed by the State Board of Education at a hearing. The State Board of Education shall conduct a hearing in which the sponsor shall present information indicating that the proposal of the organizer is substantively different in the areas of deficiency identified by the current sponsor from the current proposal as set forth within the charter with its current sponsor.

2. After the State Board of Education conducts a hearing pursuant to this subsection, the Board shall either approve or deny the proposal.

3. If the proposal is denied, no sponsor may issue a charter to the charter school governing body.

L. If a contract is not renewed, the governing board of the charter school may submit an application to a proposed new sponsor as provided for in Section 3-134 of this title.

~~E.~~ M. If a contract is not renewed or is terminated according to this section, a student who attended the charter school may enroll in the resident school district of the student or may apply for a transfer in accordance with Section 8-103 of this title.

SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-140, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 212, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 3-140), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-140. A. Except for a charter school sponsored by the State Board of Education, a charter school shall enroll those students whose legal residence is within the boundaries of the school district in which the charter school is located and who submit a timely application, or those students who transfer to the district in which the charter school is located in accordance with Section 8-103 or 8-104 of this title, unless the number of applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building. Students who reside in a school district where a charter school is located shall not be required to obtain a transfer in order to attend a charter school in the school district of residence. If capacity is insufficient to enroll all eligible students, the charter school shall select students through a lottery selection process. Except for a charter school sponsored by the State Board of Education, a charter school shall give enrollment preference to eligible students who reside within the boundaries of the school district in which the charter school is located. Except

for a charter school sponsored by the State Board of Education, a charter school created after ~~the effective date of this act~~ November 1, 2010, shall give enrollment preference to eligible students who reside within the boundaries of the school district in which the charter school is located and who attend a school site that has been identified as in need of improvement by the State Board of Education pursuant to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended or reauthorized. A charter school may limit admission to students within a given age group or grade level. A charter school sponsored by the State Board of Education when the applicant of the charter school is the Office of Juvenile Affairs shall limit admission to youth that are in the custody or supervision of the Office of Juvenile Affairs.

B. Except for a charter school sponsored by the State Board of Education, a charter school shall admit students who reside in the attendance area of a school or in a school district that is under a court order of desegregation or that is a party to an agreement with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights directed towards mediating alleged or proven racial discrimination unless notice is received from the resident school district that admission of the student would violate the court order or agreement.

C. A charter school may designate a specific geographic area within the school district in which the charter school is located as an academic enterprise zone and may limit admissions to students who

reside within that area. An academic enterprise zone shall be a geographic area in which sixty percent (60%) or more of the children who reside in the area qualify for the free or reduced school lunch program.

D. Except as provided in subsections B and C of this section, a charter school shall not limit admission based on ethnicity, national origin, gender, income level, disabling condition, proficiency in the English language, measures of achievement, aptitude, or athletic ability.

E. A sponsor of a charter school shall not restrict the number of students a charter school may enroll. The capacity of the charter school shall be determined annually by the governing board of the charter school based on the ability of the charter school to facilitate the academic success of the students, to achieve the other objectives specified in the charter contract and to ensure that the student enrollment does not exceed the capacity of its facility or site.

SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-142, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 212, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2014, 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 allocation and any other state-appropriated revenue generated by its students for the applicable year, less up to five percent (5%) of the State Aid allocation, 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, a higher education institution, the State Board of Education, or a federally recognized Indian tribe and for statewide virtual charter schools sponsored by the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board, the State Aid allocation for the charter school shall be distributed by the State Board of Education and not more than five percent (5%) of the State Aid 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. The fee for administrative services as authorized

in this subsection shall only be assessed on the State Aid allocation amount and shall not be assessed on any other appropriated amounts.

B. 1. 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 paragraph. 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.

2. 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, the weighted average daily membership for the first year of operation and each year thereafter of a full-time virtual charter school shall be determined by multiplying the actual enrollment of students as of August 1 by 1.333. The full-time virtual charter school shall receive revenue equal to that which would be generated by the estimated weighted average daily membership calculated pursuant to this paragraph. At midyear, the allocation for the full-time virtual charter school shall be adjusted using the first quarter weighted average daily

membership for the virtual 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, a higher education institution, the State Board of Education, or a federally recognized Indian tribe shall be considered a local education agency for purposes of funding. A charter school sponsored by a board of education of a school district shall be considered a local education agency for purposes of federal 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. The governing body of a charter school shall not levy taxes or issue bonds. If otherwise allowed by law, the governing body of a charter school may enter into private contracts for the purposes of borrowing money from lenders. If the governing body of the charter school borrows money, the charter school shall be solely responsible for repaying the debt, and the state or the sponsor shall not in any way be responsible or obligated to repay the debt.

E. Any charter school which chooses to lease property shall be eligible to receive current government lease rates."

Passed the House of Representatives the 14th day of April, 2015.

_____
Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives

Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2015.

_____
Presiding Officer of the Senate

ENGROSSED SENATE
BILL NO. 782

By: Jolley, Loveless and Griffin of the Senate

and

Denney of the House

An Act relating to charter schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-132, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 212, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 3-132), which relates to the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act; modifying criteria for charter school sponsors; removing certain sponsor; allowing the State Board of Education to sponsor a certain number of charter schools in counties with certain population; allowing certain priority for charter schools; providing a definition; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-134, which relates to charter applications; modifying certain financial plan requirement; adding certain information required in application; providing for location of certain charter schools sponsored by the State Board of Education; allowing appeal of rejected application; removing option for certain mediation; providing powers and duties of a charter school sponsor; directing charter school sponsors to establish certain policies and procedures; providing immunity from liability to sponsors for certain activities; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-135, which relates to charter school contracts; adding certain requirements for charter school contracts; prohibiting serving students without certain contract; allowing a sponsor to establish certain requirements; providing criteria for the establishment of performance framework; prohibiting request for certain data; allowing charter school contracts for multiple schools; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-137, which relates to contract terms; allowing contract renewal with certain terms; requiring issuance of certain performance report; providing deadline for response; establishing renewal application guidelines; providing for certain consideration in making certain renewal decision; removing option for certain mediation; directing the State Board of Education to establish a charter

school ranking list; providing options for certain ranked charter schools; providing for certain calculation under certain conditions; directing the State Board of Education to consider certain information; requiring a charter school sponsor to appear before the State Board of Education after certain decision; allowing the State Board of Education to uphold or overturn certain decision; prohibiting the granting of a charter under certain conditions; exempting certain charter schools from certain application; providing procedures for charter school closure; directing charter school sponsors to develop certain processes; requiring sponsor to state certain reasons; requiring review of certain charter proposal; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-140, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 212, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 3-140), which relates to eligibility of students; prohibiting a charter school sponsor from restricting certain enrollment; providing mechanism for calculating certain capacity; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-142, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 212, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 3-142), which relates to funding; modifying reference to unexpended funds; prohibiting levying of taxes and issuance of bonds; allowing charter schools to enter into certain borrowing contracts; and directing responsibility for repayment.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-132, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 212, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2014, 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~~ any 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~~ in the State of Oklahoma, provided such charter school shall only be located within the geographical boundaries of the sponsoring district and subject to the restrictions of Section 3-145.6 of this title;

2. ~~By a school district which has a school site that has been identified as in need of improvement by the State Board of Education pursuant to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended or reauthorized;~~

~~3.~~ By a technology center school district if the charter school is located in a school district served by the technology center school district ~~and the school district has an average daily membership of five thousand (5,000) or more and~~ in 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;

~~4.~~ 3. By a technology center school district if the charter school is located in a school district served by the technology center school district and the school district has a school site that has been identified as in need of improvement by the State

Board of Education pursuant to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended or reauthorized;

~~5.~~ 4. By ~~a~~ an accredited comprehensive or regional institution that is a member of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education or a community college if the charter school is located in a school district ~~that has an average daily membership of five thousand (5,000) or more and~~ in 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~~;

~~6.~~ 5. By a comprehensive or regional institution that is a member of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education if the charter school is located in a school district that has a school site that has been identified as in need of improvement by the State Board of Education pursuant to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended or reauthorized. 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 in the State of Oklahoma;

~~7.~~ 6. By a federally recognized Indian tribe, operating a high school under the authority of the Bureau of Indian Affairs as of November 1, 2010, if the charter school is for the purpose of demonstrating native language immersion instruction, and is located within its former reservation or treaty area boundaries. For purposes of this paragraph, native language immersion instruction shall require that educational instruction and other activities conducted at the school site are primarily conducted in the native language; ~~or~~

~~8.~~ 7. By the State Board of Education when the applicant of the charter school is the Office of Juvenile Affairs or the applicant has a contract with the Office of Juvenile Affairs to provide a fixed rate level E, D, or D+ group home service and the charter school is for the purpose of providing education services to youth in the custody or supervision of the state. Not more than two charter schools shall be sponsored by the Board as provided for in this paragraph during the period of time beginning July 1, 2010, through July 1, 2016; or

8. By the State Board of Education when the applicant has first been denied a charter by the local school district in which it seeks to operate. In counties with fewer than five hundred thousand (500,000) population, according to the latest Federal Decennial Census, the State Board of Education shall not sponsor more than five charter schools per year each year for the first five (5) years

after the effective date of this act, with not more than one charter school sponsored in a single school district per year. In order to authorize a public charter school under this section, the State Board of Education shall find evidence of all of the following:

a. a thorough and high-quality public charter school application from the applicant based on the authorizing standards in subsection B of Section 3-134 of this title,

b. a clear demonstration of community support for the public charter school, and

c. the grounds and basis of objection by the local school district for denying the charter's operation are not supported by the greater weight of evidence and the strength of the application.

B. An eligible non-school district sponsor shall give priority to opening public charter schools that serve at-risk student populations or students from low-performing transitional public schools.

C. An eligible non-school district sponsor shall give priority to applicants that have demonstrated a record of operating at least one school or similar program that demonstrates academic success and organizational viability and serves student populations similar to those the proposed public charter school seeks to serve. In assessing the potential for quality replication of a public charter

school, a sponsor shall consider the following factors before approving a new site or school:

1. Evidence of a strong and reliable record of academic success based primarily on student performance data, as well as other viable indicators, including financial and operational success;

2. A sound, detailed, and well-supported growth plan;

3. Evidence of the ability to transfer successful practices to a potentially different context that includes reproducing critical cultural, organizational, and instructional characteristics;

4. Any management organization involved in a potential replication is fully vetted, and the academic, financial, and operational records of the schools it operates are found to be satisfactory;

5. Evidence the program seeking to be replicated has the capacity to do so successfully without diminishing or putting at risk its current operations; and

6. A financial structure that ensures that funds attributable to each public charter school within a network and required by law to be utilized by a school remain with and are used to benefit that school.

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, conversion charter school, an area vocational-technical school district, a higher education

institution, a federally recognized Indian tribe, or the State Board of Education 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. For the purposes of the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act, "conversion charter school" means a charter school created by converting all or any part of a traditional public school into a public charter school which may be operated by the local school board or by an independent operating board elected by and accountable to the local school board.

~~C.~~ F. 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. 2011, 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 including, but not limited to, background information of the organizational structure and the governing body of the charter school;

3. A financial plan for the first ~~three (3)~~ five (5) 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;

11. A description of the minimum and maximum enrollment planned per year for each term of the charter contract;

12. The proposed calendar for the public charter school and sample daily schedule;

13. Unless otherwise authorized by law or regulation, a description of the academic program aligned with state standards;

14. A description of the instructional design of the public charter school, including the type of learning environment, class size and structure, curriculum overview, and teaching methods;

15. The plan for using internal and external assessments to measure and report student progress on the performance framework developed by the applicant in accordance with subsection C of Section 3-135 of this title;

16. The plans for identifying and successfully serving students with disabilities, students who are English language learners, and students who are academically behind;

17. A description of cocurricular or extracurricular programs and how they will be funded and delivered;

18. Plans and timelines for student recruitment and enrollment, including lottery procedures;

19. The student discipline policies for the public charter school, including those for special education students;

20. An organizational chart that clearly presents the organizational structure of the public charter school, including lines of authority and reporting between the governing board, staff, any related bodies such as advisory bodies or parent and teacher councils, and any external organizations that will play a role in managing the school;

21. A clear description of the roles and responsibilities for the governing board, the leadership and management team for the public charter school, and any other entities shown in the organizational chart;

22. The leadership and teacher employment policies for the public charter school;

23. Proposed governing bylaws;

24. Explanations of any partnerships or contractual partnerships central to the operations or mission of the public charter school;

25. The plans for providing transportation, food service, and all other significant operational or ancillary services;

26. Opportunities and expectations for parental involvement;

27. A detailed school start-up plan that identifies tasks, timelines, and responsible individuals;

28. A description of the financial plan and policies for the public charter school, including financial controls and audit requirements;

29. A description of the insurance coverage the public charter school will obtain;

30. Start-up and five-year budgets with clearly stated assumptions;

31. Start-up and first-year cash-flow projections with clearly stated assumptions;

32. Evidence of anticipated fundraising contributions, if claimed in the application;

33. A sound facilities plan, including backup or contingency plans if appropriate;

34. A requirement that the charter school governing board meet at a minimum quarterly in the state and that for those charter schools outside of counties with a population of five hundred thousand (500,000) or more, that a majority of members are residents within the geographic boundary of the sponsoring entity; and

35. A requirement that the charter school follow the requirements of the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act and Oklahoma Open Records Act.

C. A board of education of a public school district, public body, public or private college or university, private person, 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, a higher education institution, the State Board of Education, 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. The physical location of a charter school sponsored by the State Board of Education when the applicant of the charter school is the Office of Juvenile Affairs shall be where an Office of Juvenile Affairs facility for youth is located. <u>The physical location of a charter school otherwise sponsored by the State Board of Education pursuant to Section 3-132 of this title shall be in the school district in which the application originated.</u>

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. Should the sponsor reject the application on reconsideration, the applicant may appeal the decision to the State Board of Education with the revised application for review pursuant to paragraph 8 of subsection A of Section 3-132 of this title. The State Board of Education shall hear the appeal no later than sixty (60) days from the date received by the Board.

F. A board of education of a school district, board of education of a technology center school district, higher education institution, or federally recognized Indian tribe 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.

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

I. A sponsor of a public charter school shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Provide oversight of the operations of public charter schools in the state through annual performance reviews of public charter schools and reauthorization of public charter schools for which it is a sponsor;

2. Solicit and evaluate charter applications;

3. Approve quality charter applications that meet identified educational needs and promote a diversity of educational choices;

4. Decline to approve weak or inadequate charter applications;

5. Negotiate and execute sound charter contracts with each approved public charter school;

6. Monitor, in accordance with charter contract terms, the performance and legal compliance of public charter schools; and

7. Determine whether each charter contract merits renewal, nonrenewal or revocation.

J. Sponsors shall establish a procedure for accepting, approving, and disapproving public charter school applications in accordance with subsection E of Section 3-134 of this title.

K. Sponsors shall be required to develop and maintain chartering policies and practices consistent with recognized principles and standards for quality charter authorizing as established by the State Department of Education in all major areas of authorizing responsibility, including: organizational capacity and infrastructure, soliciting and evaluating charter applications, performance contracting, ongoing public charter school oversight and evaluation, and charter renewal decision-making.

L. Sponsors acting in their official capacity shall be immune from civil and criminal liability with respect to all activities related to a public charter school with which they contract.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-135, is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-135. A. The sponsor of a charter school shall enter into a written contract with the governing body of the charter

school. The contract shall incorporate the provisions of the charter of the charter school and contain, but shall not be limited to, the following provisions:

1. A description of the program to be offered by the school which complies with the purposes outlined in Section ~~11 of this act~~ 3-136 of this title;

2. Admission policies and procedures;

3. Management and administration of the charter school, including that a majority of the charter governing board are residents of the State of Oklahoma and meet no less than quarterly in a public meeting within the boundaries of the school district in which the charter school is located or within the State of Oklahoma in the instance of multiple charter school locations by the same sponsor;

4. Requirements and procedures for program and financial audits;

5. A description of how the charter school will comply with the charter requirements set forth in the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act;

6. Assumption of liability by the charter school; ~~and~~

7. The term of the contract;

8. A description of the high standards of expectation and rigor for public charter school plans and assurance that charter school plans adopted meet at least such standards;

9. Policies that require that the public charter school be as equally free and open to all students as traditional public schools;

10. Procedures that require students enrolled in the charter school to be selected by lottery to ensure fairness if more students apply than a school has the capacity to accommodate;

11. Policies that require the public charter school to be subject to the same academic standards and expectations as existing public schools; and

12. A description of the requirements and procedures for the charter school to receive funding in accordance with statutory requirements and guidelines for existing public schools.

B. A charter school shall not enter into an employment contract with any teacher or other personnel until the charter school has a contract with a sponsoring school district. The employment contract shall set forth the personnel policies of the charter school, including, but not limited to, policies related to certification, professional development evaluation, suspension, dismissal and nonreemployment, sick leave, personal business leave, emergency leave, and family and medical leave. The contract shall also specifically set forth the salary, hours, fringe benefits, and work conditions. The contract may provide for employer-employee bargaining, but the charter school shall not be required to comply with the provisions of Sections 509.1 through 509.10 of Title 70 of

the Oklahoma Statutes. The contract shall conform to all applicable provisions set forth in Section ~~11 of this act~~ 3-136 of this title.

Upon contracting with any teacher or other personnel, the governing body of the charter school shall, in writing, disclose employment rights of the employees in the event the charter school closes or the charter is not renewed.

No public charter school may begin serving students without a charter contract executed in accordance with the provision of this act and approved in an open meeting of the sponsor.

The sponsor may establish reasonable preopening requirements or conditions to monitor the start-up progress of newly approved public charter schools and ensure that each school is prepared to open smoothly on the date agreed and to ensure that each school meets all building, health, safety, insurance, and other legal requirements for the opening of a school.

C. The performance provisions within the charter contract shall be based on a performance framework that clearly sets forth the academic and operational performance indicators, measures, and metrics that will guide the evaluations of the public charter school by the sponsor. The sponsor shall require a charter school to submit the data required in this section in the identical format that is required by the State Department of Education of all public schools in order to avoid duplicative administrative efforts or allow a charter school to provide permission to the State Department

of Education to share all required data with the charter school's sponsor. The performance framework shall include indicators, measures, and metrics for, at a minimum:

1. Student academic proficiency;

2. Student academic growth;

3. Achievement gaps in both proficiency and growth between major student subgroups;

4. Student attendance;

5. Recurrent enrollment from year to year as determined by the methodology used for public schools in Oklahoma;

6. In the case of high schools, graduation rates as determined by the methodology used for public schools in Oklahoma;

7. In the case of high schools, postsecondary readiness;

8. Financial performance and sustainability; and

9. Governing board performance and stewardship, including compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and terms of the charter contract.

D. The sponsor shall not request any metric or data from a charter school that it does not produce or publish for all school sites in the district or under its sponsorship, unless the metric or data is unique to a charter school.

E. A charter contract may provide for one or more schools by an applicant, to the extent approved by the sponsor and consistent with applicable law. An applicant or the governing board of an applicant

may hold one or more charter contracts. Each public charter school that is part of a charter contract shall be separate and distinct from any other public charter school under the same charter contract.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-137, is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-137. A. An approved contract for a charter school shall be effective for ~~not longer than~~ five (5) years from the first day of operation. A charter contract may be renewed for successive five-year terms of duration, although the sponsor may vary the term based on the performance, demonstrated capacities, and particular circumstances of each public charter school. A sponsor may grant renewal with specific conditions for necessary improvements to a public charter school.

B. Prior to the beginning of the fourth year of operation of a public charter school, the sponsor shall issue a public charter school performance report and charter renewal application guidance to the school and the charter school board. The performance report shall summarize the performance record to date of the public charter school, based on the data required by this act and the charter contract and taking into consideration the percentage of at-risk students enrolled in the school, and shall provide notice of any weaknesses or concerns perceived by the sponsor concerning the public charter school that may jeopardize its position in seeking

renewal if not timely rectified. The public charter school shall have forty-five (45) days to respond to the performance report and submit any corrections or clarifications for the report.

C. Prior to the beginning of the fifth year of operation, the charter school may apply for renewal of the contract with the sponsor. The renewal application guidance shall, at a minimum, provide an opportunity for the public charter school to:

1. Present additional evidence, beyond the data contained in the performance report, supporting its case for charter renewal;

2. Describe improvements undertaken or planned for the school; and

3. Detail the plan for the next charter term for the school.

The renewal application guidance shall include or refer explicitly to the criteria that will guide the renewal decisions of the sponsor, which shall be based on the performance framework set forth in the charter contract and consistent with this act.

D. The sponsor may deny the request for renewal if it determines the charter school has failed to complete the obligations of the contract or comply with the provisions of the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act. A sponsor shall give written notice of its intent to deny the request for renewal at least eight (8) months prior to expiration of the contract. In making charter renewal decisions, a sponsor shall:

1. Ground decisions on evidence of the performance of the school over the term of the charter contract in accordance with the performance framework set forth in the charter contract and will take into consideration the percentage of at-risk students enrolled in the school;

2. Grant renewal to schools that have achieved the standards, targets, and performance expectations as stated in the charter contract; are organizationally and fiscally viable; and have been faithful to the terms of the contract and applicable law;

3. Ensure that data used in making renewal decisions are available to the school and the public; and

4. Provide a public report summarizing the evidence basis for each decision.

~~B.~~ E. If a sponsor denies a request for renewal, the governing board of the sponsor may, if requested by the charter school, proceed to ~~mediation or~~ binding arbitration ~~or both~~ as provided for in subsection G of Section 3-134 of this title.

~~C.~~ F. A sponsor may terminate a contract during the term of the contract for failure to meet the requirements for student performance contained in the contract, failure to meet the standards of fiscal management, violations of the law, or other good cause. The sponsor shall give at least ninety (90) days' written notice to the governing board prior to terminating the contract. The governing board may request, in writing, an informal hearing before

the sponsor within fourteen (14) days of receiving notice. The sponsor shall conduct an informal hearing before taking action. If a sponsor decides to terminate a contract, the governing board may, if requested by the charter school, proceed to ~~mediation or~~ binding arbitration ~~or both~~ as provided for in subsection G of Section 3-134 of this title.

G. Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, the State Board of Education shall identify public charter schools in the state that are ranked in the bottom five percent (5%) of all public schools as determined pursuant to Section 1210.545 of this title.

1. At the time of its charter renewal, based on an average of the current year and the two (2) prior operating years, a sponsor may close a public charter school site identified as being among the bottom five percent (5%) of public schools in the state. The average of the current year and two (2) prior operating years shall be calculated by using the percentage ranking for each year divided by three, as determined by this subsection.

2. If there is a change to the calculation described in Section 1210.545 of this title that results in a charter school site that was not ranked in the bottom five percent (5%) being ranked in the bottom five percent (5%), then the sponsor shall use the higher of the two rankings to calculate the ranking of the public charter school site.

3. In the event that a sponsor fails to close a public charter school site consistent with this subsection, the sponsor shall appear before the State Board of Education to provide support for its decision. The State Board of Education may, by majority vote, uphold or overturn the sponsor's decision. If the sponsor's decision is overturned by the State Board of Education, the State Board of Education may implement one of the following actions:

a. transfer the sponsorship of the charter school identified in this paragraph to another sponsor,

b. order the closure of the charter school identified in this paragraph at the end of the current school year, or

c. order the reduction of any administrative fee collected by the sponsor that is applicable to the charter school identified in this paragraph. The reduction shall become effective at the beginning of the month following the month of the sponsor's hearing before the State Board of Education.

A charter school that is closed by the State Board of Education pursuant to this paragraph may not be granted a charter by any other sponsor.

4. The requirements of this subsection shall not apply to a public charter school that has been designed by the State Department

of Education as implementing an alternative education program throughout the public charter school.

5. In making a school site closure decision, the State Board of Education shall consider the following:

a. enrollment of students with special challenges such as drug or alcohol addiction, prior withdrawal from school, prior incarceration or other special circumstances,

b. high mobility of the student population resulting from the specific purpose of the charter school,

c. annual improvement in the performance of students enrolled in the charter school compared with the performance of students enrolled in the charter school in the immediately preceding school year, and

d. whether a majority of students attending the charter school under consideration for closure would likely revert to attending public schools with lower academic achievement, as demonstrated pursuant to Section 1210.545 of this title.

6. If the State Board of Education has closed or transferred authorization of at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the charter schools chartered by one sponsor pursuant to paragraph 3 of this subsection, the sponsor's authority to authorize new charter schools may be suspended by the State Board of Education until the State

Board of Education approves the sponsor to authorize new charter schools. A determination under this paragraph to suspend a sponsor's authority to authorize new charter schools shall identify the deficiencies that, if corrected, will result in the approval of the sponsor to authorize new charter schools.

H. If a sponsor terminates a contract or the public charter school is closed, the closure shall be conducted in accordance with the following protocol:

1. Within two (2) calendar weeks of a final closure determination, the sponsor shall meet with the governing board and leadership of the public charter school to establish a transition team composed of school staff, applicant staff, and others designated by the applicant that will attend to the closure, including the transfer of students, student records, and school funds;

2. The sponsor and transition team shall communicate regularly and effectively with families of students enrolled in the public charter school, as well as with school staff and other stakeholders, to keep them apprised of key information regarding the closure of the school and their options and risks;

3. The sponsor and transition team shall ensure that current instruction of students enrolled in the public charter school continues per the charter agreement for the remainder of the school year;

4. The sponsor and transition team shall ensure that all necessary and prudent notifications are issued to agencies, employees, insurers, contractors, creditors, debtors, and management organizations; and

5. The governing board of the public charter school shall continue to meet as necessary to take actions needed to wind down school operations, manage school finances, allocate resources, and facilitate all aspects of closure.

I. A sponsor shall develop revocation and nonrenewal processes that are consistent with this act and that:

1. Provide the public charter school with a timely notification of the prospect of revocation or nonrenewal and of the reasons for such possible closure;

2. Allow the public charter school a reasonable amount of time in which to prepare a response;

3. Provide the public charter school with an opportunity to submit documents and give testimony in a public hearing challenging the rationale for closure and in support of the continuation of the school at an orderly proceeding held for that purpose and prior to taking any final nonrenewal or revocation decision related to the school;

4. Allow the public charter school access to representation by counsel to call witnesses on its behalf;

5. Permit the recording of the proceedings; and

6. After a reasonable period for deliberation, require a final determination be made and conveyed in writing to the charter school.

J. If a sponsor revokes or does not renew a charter, the sponsor shall clearly state in a resolution the reasons for the revocation or nonrenewal.

K. 1. Before a sponsor may issue a charter to a charter school governing body that has had its charter terminated or has been informed that its charter will not be renewed by the current sponsor, the sponsor shall request to have the proposal reviewed by the State Board of Education at a hearing. The State Board of Education shall conduct a hearing in which the sponsor shall present information indicating that the organizer's proposal is substantively different in the areas of deficiency identified by the current sponsor from the current proposal as set forth within the charter with its current sponsor.

2. After the State Board of Education conducts a hearing pursuant to this subsection, the State Board of Education shall either approve or deny the proposal.

3. If the proposal is denied, no sponsor may issue a charter to the charter school governing body.

~~D.~~ L. If a contract is not renewed, the governing board of the charter school may submit an application to a proposed new sponsor as provided for in Section 3-134 of this title.

~~E.~~ M. If a contract is not renewed or is terminated according to this section, a student who attended the charter school may enroll in the resident school district of the student or may apply for a transfer in accordance with Section 8-103 of this title.

SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-140, as last amended by Section 2, Chapter 212, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2014, Section 3-140), is amended to read as follows:

Section 3-140. A. Except for a charter school sponsored by the State Board of Education, a charter school shall enroll those students whose legal residence is within the boundaries of the school district in which the charter school is located and who submit a timely application, or those students who transfer to the district in which the charter school is located in accordance with Section 8-103 or 8-104 of this title, unless the number of applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building. Students who reside in a school district where a charter school is located shall not be required to obtain a transfer in order to attend a charter school in the school district of residence. If capacity is insufficient to enroll all eligible students, the charter school shall select students through a lottery selection process. Except for a charter school sponsored by the State Board of Education, a charter school shall give enrollment preference to eligible students who reside within the boundaries of the school district in which the charter school is located. Except

for a charter school sponsored by the State Board of Education, a charter school created after ~~the effective date of this act~~ November 1, 2010, shall give enrollment preference to eligible students who reside within the boundaries of the school district in which the charter school is located and who attend a school site that has been identified as in need of improvement by the State Board of Education pursuant to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended or reauthorized. A charter school may limit admission to students within a given age group or grade level. A charter school sponsored by the State Board of Education when the applicant of the charter school is the Office of Juvenile Affairs shall limit admission to youth that are in the custody or supervision of the Office of Juvenile Affairs.

B. Except for a charter school sponsored by the State Board of Education, a charter school shall admit students who reside in the attendance area of a school or in a school district that is under a court order of desegregation or that is a party to an agreement with the United States Department of Education Office for Civil Rights directed towards mediating alleged or proven racial discrimination unless notice is received from the resident school district that admission of the student would violate the court order or agreement.

C. A charter school may designate a specific geographic area within the school district in which the charter school is located as an academic enterprise zone and may limit admissions to students who

reside within that area. An academic enterprise zone shall be a geographic area in which sixty percent (60%) or more of the children who reside in the area qualify for the free or reduced school lunch program.

D. Except as provided in subsections B and C of this section, a charter school shall not limit admission based on ethnicity, national origin, gender, income level, disabling condition, proficiency in the English language, measures of achievement, aptitude, or athletic ability.

E. A sponsor may not restrict the number of students a public charter school may enroll. The capacity of the public charter school shall be determined annually by the governing board of the public charter school based on the public charter school's ability to facilitate the academic success of its students, to achieve the other objectives specified in the charter contract, and to ensure that its student enrollment does not exceed the capacity of its facility or site.

SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-142, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 212, O.S.L. 2013 (70 O.S. Supp. 2014, 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 allocation and any other state-appropriated revenue generated by its students for the applicable year, less up to five percent (5%) of the State Aid allocation, 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, a higher education institution, the State Board of Education, or a federally recognized Indian tribe and for statewide virtual charter schools sponsored by the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board, the State Aid allocation for the charter school shall be distributed by the State Board of Education and not more than five percent (5%) of the State Aid 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. The fee for administrative services as authorized

in this subsection shall only be assessed on the State Aid allocation amount and shall not be assessed on any other appropriated amounts.

B. 1. 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 paragraph. 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.

2. 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, the weighted average daily membership for the first year of operation and each year thereafter of a full-time virtual charter school shall be determined by multiplying the actual enrollment of students as of August 1 by 1.333. The full-time virtual charter school shall receive revenue equal to that which would be generated by the estimated weighted average daily membership calculated pursuant to this paragraph. At midyear, the allocation for the full-time virtual charter school shall be adjusted using the first quarter weighted average daily

membership for the virtual 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, a higher education institution, the State Board of Education, or a federally recognized Indian tribe shall be considered a local education agency for purposes of funding. A charter school sponsored by a board of education of a school district shall be considered a local education agency for purposes of federal 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. The governing body of a public charter school may not levy taxes or issue bonds. If otherwise allowed by law, the governing body of a public charter school may enter into private contracts for the purposes of borrowing money from lenders. If the governing body of the public charter school borrows money, the public charter school shall be solely responsible for repaying the debt, and the state or the sponsor is not in any way responsible or obligated to repay the debt.

E. Any charter school which chooses to lease property shall be eligible to receive current government lease rates.

Passed the Senate the 10th day of March, 2015.

_____
Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____, 2015.

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Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives