

**BILL SUMMARY**  
1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 55<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>HB 1696</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>Introduced</b>
<b>Request Number:</b>	<b>5628</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Rep. Denney</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>2/24/2015</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>Undetermined fiscal impact</b>

**Research Analysis**

HB 1696 modifies the list of authorized charter school sponsors by deleting the population requirement under public school districts and career technology districts. It also deletes the population requirement under the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, and it allows accredited private educational institutions to be a sponsor.

If an initial application has been made to a school district and denied, the State Board of Education may sponsor the charter school. The Board cannot sponsor more than ten charter schools per year for the next five years in counties with a population of less than five hundred thousand, according to the latest Federal Decennial Census. The Board may only sponsor one charter school per year in a school district. Sponsors must give priority to opening charter schools that serve at-risk student population or student from low-performing traditional public schools. Additionally, the measure specifies the powers and duties of charter school sponsors. The measure provides criteria for assessing the potential for successful replication of a charter school. Furthermore, the measure requires additional information be included on the charter school application and in the charter school contract between the sponsor and the governing body of a school.

A charter school cannot open without a contract in place as provided for in the measure. The sponsor of a public charter school must issue a performance report and application renewal guidance to a school prior to beginning its fifth year of operation. Low performing charter schools, as described in the measure, will not be renewed by their sponsor. However, if a sponsor fails to not renew a low performing charter, then the sponsor will be called before the Board to provide support for its decision. The Board will have the power to uphold or overturn the decision of the sponsor. The measure provides a protocol for closure and winding down operations of a charter school. Additionally, sponsors must develop revocation and nonrenewal processes that are consistent with the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act. Lastly, the measure stipulates that neither the state nor the sponsor of a charter school will be held responsible or obligated to repay the debt of a charter school.

Prepared By: Scott Tohlen

**Fiscal Analysis**

HB 1696, as introduced, relates to the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act. The fiscal impact is undetermined. SDE personnel are still reviewing.

Prepared By: Andrea Kearney

**Other Considerations**

None

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