## 1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA 2 1st Session of the 54th Legislature (2013) 3 SENATE BILL 573 By: Jolley 4 5 AS INTRODUCED 6 An Act relating to charter schools; creating the Public Charter School Commission; providing for membership; providing for appointments by certain 7 date; providing for election of chair and vice-chair; providing for members to serve at the pleasure of the 8 Governor; providing for filling vacancies; directing 9 the Commission to meet upon call of the chair; providing for timing of first meeting; providing for a quorum; directing members to receive travel 10 reimbursement; stating the powers and duties of the 11 Commission; directing the Commission to promulgate certain rules; directing the Commission to approve 12 charter school applications after certain date; requiring certain report; providing for staff support; amending 70 O.S. 2011, Sections 3-132, as 13 amended by Section 1, Chapter 367, O.S.L. 2012, 3-134, 3-136, 3-140, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 14 367, O.S.L. 2012 and 3-142 (70 O.S. Supp. 2012, Sections 3-132 and 3-140), which relate to the 15 Oklahoma Charter School Act; directing certain provisions of the act to remain in effect until 16 certain date; providing new application procedures; providing new financial reporting requirements; 17 providing for funding of charter schools; repealing 70 O.S. 2011, Sections 3-132, as last amended by 18 Section 4 of this act, 3-135, 3-137 and 3-139 (70 O.S. Supp. 2012, Section 3-132), which relate to the 19 Oklahoma Charter School Act; providing for codification; providing effective dates; and 20 declaring an emergency. 21 22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA: 23

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- SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-132.1 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
  - A. There is hereby created the Public Charter School

    Commission. The Commission shall have the authority to sponsor a charter school in any school district in this state. The Commission shall be composed of nine (9) members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The membership shall consist of:
- 10 1. Two representatives of the business community;

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- 2. One person who is a member of the administration of a charter school in the state;
  - 3. One teacher who is employed by a charter school in the state; and
- 4. Five members from each of the five (5) congressional districts.
  - B. Appointments shall be made by August 1, 2013. Terms for initial appointments shall be three (3) years. Members shall serve until their successors are duly appointed for a term of three (3) years. The Commission shall elect from its membership a chair and vice-chair annually by December 30.
    - C. Members shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
    - D. Vacancies shall be filled by the Governor.

- SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-132.2 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
  - A. The Public Charter School Commission shall meet at the call of the chair. The first meeting of the Commission shall be held no later than sixty (60) days after the effective date of this act.

- B. Five (5) members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum and an affirmative vote of at least five (5) members shall be required for the Commission to take any final action.
- C. Members of the Commission shall receive necessary traveling expenses while in the performance of their duties in accordance with the State Travel Reimbursement Act. Members shall receive reimbursement from the State Department of Education.
- SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-132.3 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
- A. The Public Charter School Commission shall have the following powers and duties:
  - 1. Formulate, adopt and promulgate rules as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this act, in compliance with the Administrative Procedures Act;
  - 2. Establish high standards of expectation and rigor for charter school applicants and charter school plans and ensure that

the charter school plan(s) adopted meet at least the following standards:

- a. require that public charter schools be as equally free and open to all students as traditional public schools,
- b. require students be selected by lottery to ensure fairness if more students apply than a school can accommodate,
- c. require public charter schools be subject to the same academic standards and expectations as existing public schools,
- d. provide for public charter schools to receive funding based on student enrollment in accordance with statutory guidelines for funding existing public schools,
- e. give priority to opening public charter schools that serve at-risk student populations or students from low-performing public schools; and
- f. require public charter schools specify the freedom
  they seek from many regulations to demonstrate more
  flexibility with a correlated impact on student
  achievement to offer a more customized learning
  experience for students;

3. Accept, review and approve applications for establishment of public charter schools in the state based on the criteria listed herein; and

- 4. 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.
- B. The Commission shall promulgate rules establishing a procedure for accepting, approving and disapproving public charter school applications. The rules shall address a method by which an applicant for a public charter school may submit an application which shall either be accepted or rejected within ninety (90) days of receipt of the application. If the application is rejected, the Commission shall notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the rejection. The applicant may submit a revised application for reconsideration to the Commission within thirty (30) days after receiving notification of the rejection. The Commission shall accept or reject the revised application within thirty (30) days of its receipt.
- C. The Commission shall submit annually by November 1 of each year, a report on policies, procedures and innovative methods employed by public charter schools that show an improvement in student achievement. The report shall be submitted to the Governor, President Pro Tempore of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives as well as the Chairs of the Senate and House

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   committees that govern policy on common education. The report shall
   include recommendations to the Legislature on how to improve
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   education in this state based on best practices from public charter
   school innovations.
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The State Department of Education shall provide staff support to the Commission.

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- SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-132, as 7 amended by Section 1, Chapter 367, O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp. 2012, 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 prior to July 1, 2014. Charter schools shall be sponsored only as follows:
  - 1. By a school district with an average daily membership of five thousand (5,000) or more and which all or part of the school district is located in a county having more than five hundred thousand (500,000) population according to the latest Federal Decennial Census;
  - 2. By a school district which has a school site listed on the school improvement list as determined 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 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. 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 listed on the school improvement list as determined by the State Board of Education pursuant to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended or reauthorized;
- 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 an average daily membership of five thousand (5,000) or more and which all or part of the school district is located in a county having more than five hundred thousand (500,000) population according to the latest Federal Decennial Census. In addition, the institution shall have a teacher education program accredited by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation and have a branch campus or constituent agency physically located within the school district in which the charter school is located;
- 6. 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 listed
on the school improvement list as determined 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;

- 7. 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;
- 8. 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,  $\frac{2016}{}$  2014; or

- 9. By the State Board of Education when the applicant of the charter school is the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board created in Section 3 of this act pursuant to Section 3-145.1 of this title and the charter school is for the purpose of establishing a full-time statewide virtual charter school.
- B. Any charter or enterprise school operating in the state pursuant to an agreement with the board of education of a school district on July 1, 1999, or established prior to July 1, 2014, pursuant to subsection A of this section, may continue to operate pursuant to that agreement or may contract with the board of education of the school district pursuant to the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act. Nothing in the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act shall prohibit a school district from applying for exemptions from certain education-related statutory requirements as provided for in the Educational Deregulation Act.
- C. For purposes of the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act, "charter school" means a public school established by contract with a board of education of a school district, an area vocational-technical school district, 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.

- D. 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.
- E. Beginning July 1, 2014, the Public Charter School Commission created in Section 2 of this act shall be authorized to approve applications for public charter schools, and the provisions of subsections A through D of this section shall cease to have effect.
- SECTION 5. 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 <u>prior to</u>

  July 1, 2014, shall submit a written application to the proposed

- 1 | sponsor as prescribed in subsection E of this section. Beginning
- 2 | July 1, 2014, an applicant seeking to establish a public charter
- 3 | school shall submit a written application to the Public Charter
- 4 | School Commission created in Section 1 of this act. The application
- 5 | shall include:
- 6 1. A mission statement for the charter school;
- 7 2. A description of the organizational structure and the 8 governing body of the charter school;
- 9 3. A financial plan for the first three (3) years of operation
  10 of the charter school and a description of the treasurer or other
  11 officers or persons who shall have primary responsibility for the
  12 finances of the charter school. Such person shall have demonstrated
- 13 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, prior to July
- 16 1, 2014, the requested sponsor;

- 6. A description of the facility and location of the charter school;
- 7. A description of the grades being served;
- 20 8. An outline of criteria designed to measure the effectiveness of the charter school;
- 9. A demonstration of support for the charter school from residents of the school district which may include but is not

limited to a survey of the school district residents or a petition signed by residents of the school district; and

- 10. Documentation that the applicants completed charter school training as set forth in subsection A of this section.
- C. A board of education of a public school district, public body, public or private college or university, private person, or private organization may contract with a sponsor to establish a charter school prior to July 1, 2014. A private school shall not be eligible to contract for a charter school under the provisions of the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act.
- D. The Prior to July 1, 2014, 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.

E. An Prior to July 1, 2014, an applicant for a charter school may submit an application to a proposed sponsor which shall either accept or reject sponsorship of the charter school within ninety (90) days of receipt of the application. If the proposed sponsor rejects the application, it shall notify the applicant in writing of the reasons for the rejection. The applicant may submit a revised application for reconsideration to the proposed sponsor within thirty (30) days after receiving notification of the rejection. The proposed sponsor shall accept or reject the revised application within thirty (30) days of its receipt.

- F. A <u>Prior to July 1, 2014, the</u> 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 prior to July 1, 2014, 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.
- 5 If a board of education of a technology center school district, a higher education institution, the State Board of 6 Education, or a federally recognized Indian tribe accepts 7 sponsorship of a charter school prior to July 1, 2014, the 9 administrative, fiscal and oversight responsibilities of the 10 technology center school district, the higher education institution, 11 or the federally recognized Indian tribe shall be listed in the 12 contract. No responsibilities shall be delegated to a school district unless the local school district agrees to assume the 13 responsibilities. 14
- SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-136, is amended to read as follows:
- Section 3-136. A. A charter school shall adopt a charter which will ensure compliance with the following:
- 1. A charter school shall comply with all federal regulations
  20 and state and local rules and statutes relating to health, safety,
  21 civil rights and insurance. By January 1, 2000, the State
  22 Department of Education shall prepare a list of relevant rules and
  23 statutes which a charter school must comply with as required by this
  24 paragraph and shall annually provide an update to the list;

2. A charter school shall be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operations.

A Prior to July 1, 2014, a sponsor may not authorize a charter school or program that is affiliated with a nonpublic sectarian school or religious institution;

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

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

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- 5. Except as provided for in the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act and its charter, a charter school shall be exempt from all statutes and rules relating to schools, boards of education, and school districts;
- 6. A charter school, to the extent possible, shall be subject to the same reporting requirements, financial audits, audit 8 9 procedures, and audit requirements as a school district. The State 10 Department of Education or State Auditor and Inspector may conduct financial, program, or compliance audits. A Prior to July 1, 2014, 11 12 a charter school shall use the Oklahoma Cost Accounting System to report financial transactions to the sponsoring school district. 13 After July 1, 2014, a charter school shall report financial 14 transactions to the Public Charter School Commission; 15
  - 7. A charter school shall comply with all federal and state laws relating to the education of children with disabilities in the same manner as a school district;
  - 8. A charter school shall provide for a governing body for the school which shall be responsible for the policies and operational decisions of the charter school;
  - 9. A charter school shall not be used as a method of generating revenue for students who are being home schooled and are not being educated at an organized charter school site;

- 10. A charter school may not charge tuition or fees;
- 11. A charter school shall provide instruction each year for at least the number of days required in Section 1-109 of this title;
- 12. A charter school shall comply with the student suspension requirements provided for in Section 24-101.3 of this title;
- 13. A charter school shall be considered a school district for purposes of tort liability under The Governmental Tort Claims Act;
- 14. Employees of a charter school may participate as members of the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma in accordance with applicable statutes and rules if otherwise allowed pursuant to law;
- 15. A charter school may participate in all health and related insurance programs available to the employees of the sponsor of the charter school prior to July 1, 2014;
- 16. A charter school shall comply with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act and the Oklahoma Open Records Act; and
- 17. The governing body of a charter school shall be subject to the same conflict of interest requirements as a member of a local school board.
- B. The Prior to July 1, 2014, the charter of a charter school shall include a description of the personnel policies, personnel qualifications, and method of school governance, and the specific role and duties of the sponsor of the charter school.

- C. The Prior to July 1, 2014, the charter of a charter school may be amended at the request of the governing body of the charter school and upon the approval of the sponsor.
- D. A charter school may enter into contracts and sue and be sued.
- E. The governing body of a charter school may not levy taxes or issue bonds.
- F. The charter of a charter school shall include a provision specifying the method or methods to be employed for disposing of real and personal property acquired by the charter school upon expiration or termination of the charter or failure of the charter school to continue operations. Except as otherwise provided and prior to July 1, 2014, any real or personal property purchased with state or local funds shall be retained by the sponsoring school district. If a charter school that was previously sponsored by the board of education of a school district continues operation within the school district under a new charter sponsored by an entity authorized pursuant to Section 3-132 of this title, the charter school may retain any personal property purchased with state or local funds for use in the operation of the charter school until termination of the new charter or failure of the charter school to continue operations.

SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 3-140, as amended by Section 2, Chapter 367, O.S.L. 2012 (70 O.S. Supp. 2012, Section 3-140), is amended to read as follows:

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Section 3-140. A. Except for a charter school sponsored by the State Board of Education prior to July 1, 2014, 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 prior to July 1, 2014, 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 prior to July 1, 2014, a charter school created after the effective date of this act November 1, 2010, shall give enrollment preference to eligible students who reside within

1 the boundaries of the school district in which the charter school is located and who attend a school site listed on the school 2 3 improvement list as determined by the State Board of Education pursuant to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as 4 5 amended or reauthorized. A charter school may limit admission to students within a given age group or grade level. A Prior to July 6 1, 2014, a charter school sponsored by the State Board of Education 7 when the applicant of the charter school is the Office of Juvenile 9 Affairs shall limit admission to youth that are in the custody or 10 supervision of the Office of Juvenile Affairs. A Prior to July 1, 11 2014, a charter school sponsored by the State Board of Education 12 when the applicant of the charter school is the Statewide Virtual 13 Charter School Board shall enroll those students who are legal residents of this state and who have been approved for a transfer 14 pursuant to Section 8-103 or 8-104 of this title. 15

B. Except for a charter school sponsored by the State Board of Education prior to July 1, 2014, 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.

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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. The Public Charter School Commission created in Section 1 of this act shall promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section after July 1, 2014.
- SECTION 8. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, 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, 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 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.

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B. The weighted average daily membership for the first year of operation of a charter school shall be determined initially by

- multiplying the actual enrollment of students as of August 1 by

  1.333. The charter school shall receive revenue equal to that which

  would be generated by the estimated weighted average daily

  membership calculated pursuant to this subsection. At midyear, the

  allocation for the charter school shall be adjusted using the first

  quarter weighted average daily membership for the charter school

  calculated pursuant to subsection A of this section.
  - C. A charter school shall be eligible to receive any other aid, grants or revenues allowed to other schools. A charter school sponsored by the board of education of a technology center school district, 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.
  - E. Any charter school which chooses to lease property shall be eligible to receive current government lease rates.

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        F. For the purposes of funding beginning July 1, 2014, public
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    charter schools shall be subject to the provisions of Sections 18-
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    201.1 and 18-200.1 of this title.
                       REPEALER 70 O.S. 2011, Sections 3-132, as
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        SECTION 9.
    last amended by Section 4 of this act, 3-135, 3-137 and 3-139, are
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    hereby repealed.
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        SECTION 10. Sections 1 through 8 of this act shall become
    effective July 1, 2013.
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        SECTION 11. Section 9 of this act shall become effective July
    1, 2014.
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        SECTION 12. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
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    of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
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    declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
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    be in full force from and after its passage and approval.
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