BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 55th Legislature

Bill No.:	**SB 782**
Version:	**Engrossed**
Request Number:	**N/A**
Author:	**Rep. Denney**
Date:	**4/6/2015**
Impact:	**Minimal fiscal impact**

Research Analysis

SB 782 specifies that any school district may sponsor a charter school located within the district, subject to the restrictions regarding virtual education providers. The measure modifies the list of authorized charter school sponsors by deleting the population requirement under public school districts and career technology districts. Additionally, it removes the average daily membership requirement for members' of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education and community colleges to sponsor a charter school. The measure permits the State Board of Education to sponsor a charter school if an application has first been denied by the local school district. In counties with a certain population, the Board may not sponsor more than 5 charter schools per year each year for the first 5 years after the effective date of the measure, with not more than one charter school sponsored in a single school district per year.

Non-school district sponsors must give priority to opening charter schools that serve at-risk student populations or student from low-performing traditional public schools. The measure provides criteria for assessing the potential for successful replication of a charter school, and it adds and defines the term *conversion charter schoo*l under the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act. The measure requires additional information be included on a charter school application and in the contract between the sponsor and the governing body of a charter school. Furthermore, it provides an appeal process for a charter school whose application has been rejected upon reconsideration by a sponsor, and it specifies the powers and duties of charter school sponsors.

The measure stipulates that a charter school cannot begin serving students without a contract in place as provided for in the measure. Additionally, it stipulates that the performance provisions within the contract must be based on a clear performance framework, including academic and operational performance. The sponsor of a public charter school must issue performance report and application renewal guidance to a school prior to beginning its fourth year of operation. Low performing charter schools as described in the measure may not be renewed by their sponsor. If a sponsor fails to close a low performing charter school, then the sponsor will appear 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 specifies items to consider in making a decision to close a charter school. The Board will have the authority to suspend a sponsor's authority to sponsor new charter schools under certain conditions. Additionally, the measure provides a protocol for closure and winding down operations of a charter school. Sponsors must develop revocation and nonrenewal processes that are consistent with the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act, and sponsors cannot restrict the number of students a public charter school may enroll. Capacity of a charter school must be determined annually by the governing board. 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

ESB 782 relates to charter schools and the Oklahoma Charter Schools Act. The measure is anticipated to have no significant fiscal impact. State Department of Education personnel are reviewing.

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Other Considerations

None