Bill Summary 1st Session of the 57th Legislature

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Bill Analysis

SB 15 removes the ability for higher education institutions, technology centers, and the State Board of Education to sponsor the creation of a charter school district. Beginning July 1, 2020, only a school district and a federally recognized tribe may sponsor the creation of a charter school. Any charter school that received sponsorship from any entity other than a school district or recognized tribe will cease operations after 1 year if the charter school fails to receive a tribal or local school district sponsorship.

SB 15 will also modify the exceptions for enrolling a student in a school district in which the charter school is physically located. Charter schools sponsored by the State Board of Education are no longer included. Instead, the measure allows schools sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Affairs or an entity contracted with the Office to enroll students in a district separate from the one in which the charter school is physically located. Additionally, charter schools sponsored by the Office or entities contracting with the Office do not need to give preference to students located in the district the charter school is located.

The measure also removes the ability for potential charter schools to appeal rejections of sponsorship to the State Board of Education. Upon rejection of a revised application, applicant schools may still proceed into binding arbitration with their proposed sponsor.

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