

**Bill Summary**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 58<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>SB 1621</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>FS</b>
<b>Request No.:</b>	<b>3744</b>
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**Bill Analysis**

The FS for SB 1621 creates a 9-member Statewide Charter School Board to have the sole authority to authorize and sponsor statewide virtual charter schools beginning July 1, 2023. It allows the Board to sponsor brick-and-mortar charter schools. The bill provides for membership of the Board and requires appointments to be made by Aug. 31, 2022. It states that beginning July 1, 2023, statewide virtual charter schools will be sponsored only by the Statewide Charter School Board, which shall succeed to any contractual rights and responsibilities incurred by the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board. It states that beginning July 1, 2023, the Statewide Charter School Board will also succeed to any contractual rights and responsibilities incurred by the State Board of Education in sponsorship of charter schools. Beginning July 1, 2023, it allows any charter school to apply to the Statewide Charter School Board for sponsorship. The bill provides for the Statewide Charter School Board to have general oversight of all charter schools in the state. It creates the Statewide Charter School Board Revolving Fund. The bill removes technology center school districts and the State Board of Education as sponsors of charter schools, and it adds the Statewide Charter School Board as a sponsor.

The bill modifies sections of law relating to charter schools and virtual charter schools to update and remove references. It directs the Statewide Charter School Board rather than the State Department of Education to provide required training to charter school applicants. It also directs the Board to provide training to a sponsor that enters into a new or renewed sponsorship contract on or after July 1, 2023. The measure increases the term of a charter school sponsorship contract from 5 to 10 years. It specifies that 3 percent of a charter school's State Aid allocation may be retained by a sponsor for administrative services if the sponsor is a school district, a comprehensive or regional institution of higher education, a community college, or a federally recognized Indian tribe. It prohibits the Statewide Charter School Board from charging any charter school or virtual charter school a fee for administrative or other services. It directs the State Department of Education to develop data codes for the Oklahoma Cost Accounting System to be used to comply with administrative services reporting. It directs a charter school sponsor to publish a detailed report on its website and present the report in a public meeting of the charter school governing board. The measure also modifies the State Aid calculation for charter schools and virtual charter schools, directing the weighted average daily membership for the first year of operation and each year thereafter to be calculated by multiplying actual enrollment of students as of August 1 by 1.6, with the midyear adjustment based on the first quarter weighted average daily membership. The measure also removes and repeals sections of law relating to the Statewide Virtual Charter School Board and current guidelines for charter school sponsorship.

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