
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 229

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROCESS BY WHICH A CHARTER IS GRANTED AND FUNDING IS PROVIDED FOR A NEW CHARTER SCHOOL.

SUMMARY

Under current law, the State Board of Education (SBE) may grant “initial certificates of approval” for charters for local and state charter schools. However, the new school’s initial certificate only becomes effective under the law as a full “charter” if the legislature appropriates funds to the State Department of Education for its operations. The school receives its charter as of July 1 in the fiscal year for which the funds are appropriated.

As of July 1, 2022, the bill allows SBE to grant full charters rather than initial certificates of approval. Additionally, it creates the “charter school approval grant account” within the General Fund to give initial funding to state and local charter schools that have been granted a new charter in the fiscal year immediately following the one in which the charter was granted instead of waiting for the legislature to appropriate the funds.

Additionally, the bill prohibits SBE from approving more than two new state charter schools per fiscal year beginning in FY 23.

It also makes several conforming changes and removes obsolete language in current law regarding SBE’s approval of applications for new state charter schools before July 1, 2015.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2022

§ 2 — CHARTER SCHOOL APPROVAL GRANT ACCOUNT

Under the bill, the charter school approval grant account must be a separate, nonlapsing account within the General Fund. It must contain

any funds that the law requires to be deposited into it, which under the bill includes any unexpended state funds appropriated for local and state charter schools' per pupil operating grants.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference - APP

Yea 25 Nay 14 (03/25/2022)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 32 Nay 16 (04/07/2022)