

HB 1869 -- CHARTER SCHOOLS

SPONSOR: Stream

This bill changes the laws regarding charter schools. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Authorizes additional entities to be eligible to sponsor a charter school in an unaccredited district including the school board of a district that is accredited without provisions, a combination of the school boards of districts that are accredited without provisions, or a cooperative association of school districts;

(2) Repeals the provision requiring the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education provide guidance to sponsors in developing policies and procedures for the review of a charter proposal; the granting of a charter; the performance framework that the sponsor will use to evaluate the performance of charter schools; the sponsor's intervention, renewal, and revocation policies; and the procedures to be implemented if a charter school should close;

(3) Changes the deadline that the State Board of Education within the department must approve a proposed charter from December 1 of the prior year to January 31 of the year that is the proposed opening date of the charter school;

(4) Requires the state board to renew a charter application within 60 days of receipt of any application received on or before November 15. After 60 days, the charter must be deemed approved unless the state board disapproves the charter on specified grounds. Any disapproval must be in writing, specify how the application failed to meet the requirements, and be provided to the sponsor within five business days after the board issues the disapproval;

(5) Requires the state board's decision not to renew a charter to be based solely on the school's failure to meet specific academic performance standards;

(6) Specifies the requirements in order to be considered a high-quality charter school or a high-quality charter management organization and requires that they be given expedited opportunities to replicate and expand into unaccredited districts and the city school districts of St. Louis and Kansas City subject to conditions and timelines specified in the bill; and

(7) Limits the identification of financially stressed charter schools to a charter school that has been in operation for three or

more school years.