

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to charter schools; amending s.  
 3           1002.33, F.S.; requiring a charter school applicant to  
 4           provide evidence of a surety bond or secured escrow  
 5           account by a specified date to cover first-year  
 6           operation costs; amending s. 1002.331, F.S.;  
 7           conforming a cross-reference; providing an effective  
 8           date.

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 10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 12           Section 1. Paragraphs (g) and (h) of subsection (6) of  
 13           section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
 14           paragraphs (h) and (i), respectively, and a new paragraph (g) is  
 15           added to that subsection to read:

16           1002.33 Charter schools.—

17           (6) APPLICATION PROCESS AND REVIEW.—Charter school  
 18           applications are subject to the following requirements:

19           (g) A charter school applicant, after approval of an  
 20           application but before the first day of classes at the charter  
 21           school, must provide verified evidence of a surety bond or  
 22           secured escrow account in an amount equal to or greater than the  
 23           expense projection for the first year of operation, including,  
 24           but not limited to, all salaries, leases, and purchase services.

25           Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section  
 26           1002.331, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

27 | 1002.331 High-performing charter schools.—

28 | (3) (a) A high-performing charter school may submit an  
29 | application pursuant to s. 1002.33(6) in any school district in  
30 | the state to establish and operate a new charter school that  
31 | will substantially replicate its educational program. An  
32 | application submitted by a high-performing charter school must  
33 | state that the application is being submitted pursuant to this  
34 | paragraph and must include the verification letter provided by  
35 | the Commissioner of Education pursuant to subsection (5). If the  
36 | sponsor fails to act on the application within 60 days after  
37 | receipt, the application is deemed approved and the procedure in  
38 | s. 1002.33(6)(i) ~~1002.33(6)(h)~~ applies. If the sponsor denies  
39 | the application, the high-performing charter school may appeal  
40 | pursuant to s. 1002.33(6).

41 | Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.