

By the Committee on Education and Senator Burt

304-1952-98

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to education; authorizing the  
3           creation of charter technical career centers;  
4           prescribing powers and duties of the  
5           Commissioner of Education, the Department of  
6           Education, participating district school  
7           boards, and community college district boards  
8           of trustees, with respect to charter technical  
9           career centers; prescribing powers and duties  
10          of charter technical career centers and their  
11          boards of directors; providing for funding;  
12          prescribing rights and duties of employees of  
13          centers and of district school board employees  
14          and community college employees working at  
15          charter technical career centers; providing for  
16          the resolution of complaints; providing for  
17          revocation of a charter; providing for rules;  
18          amending s. 121.021, F.S.; redefining the term  
19          "covered group" with respect to the Florida  
20          Retirement System to include charter technical  
21          career centers; amending s. 121.051, F.S.;  
22          providing for optional participation in the  
23          Florida Retirement System by employees of  
24          charter technical career centers; amending s.  
25          236.081, F.S.; providing for calculating  
26          changes in school district funding resulting  
27          from a drop in enrollment based on student  
28          transfers to a charter technical career center;  
29          providing an effective date.  
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1           WHEREAS, The Legislature supports a strong prosperous  
2 economy, with a well-trained, highly qualified work force, and

3           WHEREAS, the Legislature continues to foster transition  
4 of WAGES participants from dependency on public funds to  
5 self-sufficiency; and

6           WHEREAS, local economies are dependent upon maximizing  
7 local work force training and education resources; and

8           WHEREAS, the Legislature promotes more choices for  
9 parents and students, but has not authorized public chartering  
10 entities to encourage public or public and private  
11 partnerships for work force education and training, and

12           WHEREAS, technical career centers that operate under a  
13 charter rather than under the direct supervision of a school  
14 board or a community college may be able to respond more  
15 rapidly to economic development and economic expansion  
16 opportunities, and

17           WHEREAS, traditional educational and career training  
18 environments may be restricted in their flexibility to serve  
19 the individual education and career training needs of  
20 students, and

21           WHEREAS, charter technical career centers may be able  
22 to provide more innovative approaches to workforce  
23 preparation, and

24           WHEREAS, business and industry should have primary  
25 input on the design and structure of all career programs and  
26 services, and

27           WHEREAS, the Legislature desires to maintain and  
28 strengthen the mission of individual education and training  
29 delivery systems, and, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

1           Section 1. (1) AUTHORIZATION.--The Legislature finds  
2 that the establishment of charter technical career centers can  
3 assist in promoting advances and innovations in workforce  
4 preparation and economic development. A charter technical  
5 career center may provide a learning environment that better  
6 serves the needs of a specific population group or a group of  
7 occupations, thus promoting diversity and choices within the  
8 public education and public postsecondary technical education  
9 community in this state. Therefore, the creation of such  
10 centers is authorized as part of the state's program of public  
11 education. A charter technical career center may be formed by  
12 creating a new school or converting an existing school  
13 district or community college program to charter technical  
14 status.

15           (2) PURPOSE.--The purpose of a charter technical  
16 career center is to:

17           (a) Develop a competitive workforce to support local  
18 business and industry and economic development.

19           (b) Create a training and education model that is  
20 reflective of marketplace realities.

21           (c) Offer a continuum of career educational  
22 opportunities using a school-to-work, tech-prep, technical,  
23 academy, and magnet school model.

24           (d) Provide career pathways for lifelong learning and  
25 career mobility.

26           (e) Enhance career and technical training.

27           (3) DEFINITIONS.--As used in this act, the term:

28           (a) "Charter technical career center" or "center"  
29 means a public school or a public technical center operated  
30 under a charter granted by the local school board or community  
31 college district board of trustees or a consortium, including

1 one or more school boards and community college district  
2 boards of trustees that includes the district in which the  
3 facility is located, which is nonsectarian in its programs,  
4 admission policies, employment practices, and operations and  
5 is managed by a board of directors.

6 (b) A "sponsor" means a district school board, a  
7 community college district board of trustees, or a consortium  
8 of one or more of each.

9 (4) CHARTER.--A sponsor may designate centers as  
10 provided in this section. An application to establish a  
11 center may be submitted by a sponsor or another organization  
12 that is determined, by rule of the State Board of Education,  
13 to be appropriate. However, an independent school is not  
14 eligible for status as a center. The charter must be signed by  
15 the governing body of the center and the sponsor and must be  
16 approved by the district school board and community college  
17 board of trustees in whose geographic region the facility is  
18 located. An applicant who wishes to establish a center must  
19 submit to the local school board or community college district  
20 board of trustees, or a consortium of one or more of each, an  
21 application that includes:

22 (a) The name of the proposed center.

23 (b) The proposed structure of the center, including a  
24 list of proposed members of the board of directors or a  
25 description of the qualifications for and method of their  
26 appointment or election.

27 (c) The workforce development goals of the center, the  
28 curriculum to be offered, and the outcomes and the methods of  
29 assessing the extent to which the outcomes are met.

30 (d) The admissions policy and criteria for evaluating  
31 the admission of students.

1           (e) A description of the staff responsibilities and  
2 the proposed qualifications of the teaching staff.

3           (f) A description of the procedures to be implemented  
4 to ensure significant involvement of representatives of  
5 business and industry in the operation of the center.

6           (g) A method for determining whether a student has  
7 satisfied the requirements for graduation specified in section  
8 232.246, Florida Statutes, and for completion of postsecondary  
9 certificates and degrees.

10           (h) A method for granting secondary and postsecondary  
11 diplomas, certificates, and degrees.

12           (i) A description of and address for the physical  
13 facility in which the center will be located.

14           (j) A method of resolving conflicts between the  
15 governing body of the center and the sponsor and between  
16 consortium or partnership members, if applicable.

17           (k) A method for reporting student data as required by  
18 law and rule.

19           (l) Other information required by the local school  
20 board or community college district board of trustees.

21  
22 Students at a center must meet the same testing and academic  
23 performance standards as those established by law and rule for  
24 students at public schools and public technical centers. The  
25 students must also meet any additional assessment indicators  
26 that are included within the charter approved by the district  
27 school board or community college district board of trustees.

28           (5) APPLICATION.--An application to establish a center  
29 must be submitted by February 1 of the year preceding the  
30 school year in which the center will begin operation. The  
31 sponsor must review the application and make a final decision

1 on whether to approve the application and grant the charter by  
2 March 1, and may condition the granting of a charter on the  
3 center's taking certain actions or maintaining certain  
4 conditions. Such actions and conditions must be provided to  
5 the applicant in writing. The local school board or community  
6 college district board of trustees is not required to issue a  
7 charter to any person.

8 (6) SPONSOR.--A district school board or community  
9 college district board of trustees or a consortium of one or  
10 more of each may sponsor a center in the county over which the  
11 board has jurisdiction.

12 (a) A sponsor must review all applications for centers  
13 received through at least February 1 of each calendar year for  
14 centers to be opened at the beginning of the sponsor's next  
15 school year. A sponsor may receive applications later than  
16 this date if it so chooses. To facilitate an accurate budget  
17 projection process, a sponsor shall be held harmless for FTE  
18 students that are not included in the FTE projections due to  
19 approval of applications after the FTE projection deadline. A  
20 sponsor must, by a majority vote, approve or deny an  
21 application no later than 60 days after the application is  
22 received. If an application is denied, the sponsor must,  
23 within 10 days, notify the applicant in writing of the  
24 specific reasons for denial, which must be based upon good  
25 cause. Upon approval of a charter application, the initial  
26 startup must be consistent with the beginning of the public  
27 school or community college calendar for the district in which  
28 the charter is granted, unless the sponsor allows a waiver of  
29 this provision for good cause.

30 (b) An applicant may appeal any denial of its  
31 application to the State Board of Education within 30 days

1 after the sponsor's denial and shall notify the sponsor of its  
2 appeal. Any response of the sponsor must be submitted to the  
3 state board within 30 days after notification of the appeal.  
4 The state board must, by majority vote, accept or reject the  
5 decision of the sponsor no later than 60 days after an appeal  
6 is filed, pursuant to state board rule. The state board may  
7 reject an appeal for failure to comply with procedural rules  
8 governing the appeals process, and the rejection must describe  
9 the submission errors. The appellant may have up to 15 days  
10 after notice of rejection to resubmit an appeal. An  
11 application for appeal submitted after a rejection is timely  
12 if the original appeal was filed within 30 days after the  
13 sponsor's denial. The state board shall remand the application  
14 to the sponsor with a written recommendation that the sponsor  
15 approve or deny the application, consistent with the state  
16 board's decision. The decision of the state board is not  
17 subject to the provisions of chapter 120, Florida Statutes.

18 (c) The sponsor must act upon the recommendation of  
19 the State Board of Education within 30 days after it is  
20 received, unless the sponsor determines by competent  
21 substantial evidence that approving the state board's  
22 recommendation would be contrary to law or the best interests  
23 of the pupils or the community. The sponsor must notify the  
24 applicant in writing concerning the specific reasons for its  
25 failure to follow the state board's recommendation. The  
26 sponsor's action on the state board's recommendation is a  
27 final action, subject to judicial review.

28 (d) The Department of Education may provide technical  
29 assistance to an applicant upon written request.

30 (e) The terms and conditions for the operation of a  
31 center must be agreed to by the sponsor and the applicant in a

1 written contract. The sponsor may not impose unreasonable  
2 requirements that violate the intent of giving centers greater  
3 flexibility to meet educational goals. The applicant and  
4 sponsor must reach an agreement on the provisions of the  
5 contract or the application is deemed denied.

6 (f) The sponsor shall monitor and review the center's  
7 progress towards charter goals and shall monitor the center's  
8 revenues and expenditures.

9 (7) LEGAL ENTITY.--A center must organize as a  
10 nonprofit organization and adopt a name and corporate seal. A  
11 center is a body corporate and politic, with all powers to  
12 implement its charter program. The center may:

13 (a) Be a private or a public employer.

14 (b) Sue and be sued, but only to the same extent and  
15 upon the same conditions that a public entity can be sued.

16 (c) Acquire real property by purchase, lease, lease  
17 with an option to purchase, or gift, to use as a center  
18 facility.

19 (d) Receive and disburse funds.

20 (e) Enter into contracts or leases for services,  
21 equipment, or supplies.

22 (f) Incur temporary debts in anticipation of the  
23 receipt of funds.

24 (g) Solicit and accept gifts or grants for career  
25 center purposes.

26 (h) Take any other action that is not inconsistent  
27 with this section and rules adopted under this section.

28 (8) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.--A center must be open to all  
29 students as space is available and may not discriminate in  
30 admissions policies or practices on the basis of an  
31 individual's physical disability or proficiency in English or



1 on any other basis that would be unlawful if practiced by a  
2 public school or a community college. A center may establish  
3 reasonable criteria by which to evaluate prospective students,  
4 which criteria must be outlined in the charter.

5 (9) FACILITIES.--A center may be located in any  
6 suitable location, including part of an existing public school  
7 or community college building, space provided on a public  
8 worksite, or a public building. A center's facilities must  
9 comply with the State Uniform Building Code for Public  
10 Educational Facilities Construction adopted pursuant to  
11 section 235.26, Florida Statutes, or with applicable state  
12 minimum building codes pursuant to chapter 553, Florida  
13 Statutes, and state minimum fire protection codes pursuant to  
14 section 633.025, Florida Statutes, adopted by the authority in  
15 whose jurisdiction the facility is located. If K-12 public  
16 school funds are used for construction, the facility must  
17 remain on the local school district's Florida Inventory of  
18 School Houses (FISH) school building inventory of the local  
19 school board and must revert to the local school board if the  
20 partnership or consortium dissolves and the program is  
21 discontinued. If community college public school funds are  
22 used for construction, the facility must remain on the local  
23 community college's facilities inventory and must revert to  
24 the local community college district board if the partnership  
25 or consortium dissolves and the program is discontinued. The  
26 additional student capacity created by the addition of the  
27 center to the local school district's FISH may not be  
28 calculated in the permanent student capacity for the purpose  
29 of determining need or eligibility for state capital outlay  
30 funds while the facility is used as a center. If the  
31 construction of the center is funded jointly by K-12 public

1 school funds and community college funds, the sponsoring  
2 entities must agree, before granting the charter, on the  
3 appropriate owner and terms of transfer of the facility if the  
4 charter is dissolved.

5 (10) EXEMPTION FROM STATUTES.--

6 (a) A center must operate pursuant to its charter and  
7 is exempt from all statutes of the Florida School Code except  
8 provisions pertaining to civil rights and to student health,  
9 safety, and welfare, or as otherwise required by law.

10 (b) A center must comply with the Florida School Code  
11 with respect to providing services to students with  
12 disabilities.

13 (c) A center must comply with the antidiscrimination  
14 provisions of section 228.2001, Florida Statutes.

15 (11) FUNDING.--

16 (a) Each school board and community college that  
17 sponsors a charter technical career center shall pay directly  
18 to the center an amount stated in the charter. State funding  
19 shall be generated for the center for its student enrollment  
20 and program outcomes as provided in law. A center is eligible  
21 for funding from the Florida Workforce Development Education  
22 Fund, the Florida Education Finance Program, and the Community  
23 College Program Fund, depending upon the programs conducted by  
24 the center.

25 (b) A center may receive other state and federal aid,  
26 grants, and revenue through the local school board or  
27 community college district board of trustees.

28 (c) A center may receive gifts and grants from private  
29 sources.

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1           (d) A center may not levy taxes or issue bonds, but it  
2 may charge a student tuition fee consistent with authority  
3 granted in its charter and permitted by law.

4           (e) A center is subject to an annual financial audit  
5 in a manner similar to that of a school district or community  
6 college.

7           (f) A center must provide instruction for at least the  
8 number of days required by law for other public schools or  
9 community colleges, as appropriate, and may provide  
10 instruction for additional days.

11           (g) The sponsor, at the center's request, may apply to  
12 the Commissioner of Education for a waiver of any requirements  
13 that inhibit maximizing the use of public education funds.

14           (12) EMPLOYEES OF A CENTER.--

15           (a) A center may select its own employees.

16           (b) A center may contract for services with an  
17 individual, partnership, or a cooperative. Such persons  
18 contracted with are not public employees.

19           (c) If a center contracts with a public educational  
20 agency for services, the terms of employment must follow  
21 existing state law and rule and local policies and procedures.

22           (d) The employees of a center may bargain  
23 collectively, as a separate unit or as part of the existing  
24 district collective bargaining unit, as determined by the  
25 structure of the center.

26           (e) As a public employer, a center may participate in:

27           1. The Florida Retirement System upon application and  
28 approval as a "covered group" under section 121.021(34),  
29 Florida Statutes. If a center participates in the Florida  
30 Retirement System, its employees are compulsory members of the  
31 Florida Retirement System.

1           2. The state community college system optional  
2 retirement plan pursuant to section 240.3195(2), Florida  
3 Statutes, if the charter is granted by a community college  
4 that participates in the optional retirement program and meets  
5 the eligibility criteria of section 121.051(2)(c), Florida  
6 Statutes.

7           (f) Teachers who are considered qualified by the  
8 career center are exempt from state certification  
9 requirements.

10           (g) A public school or community college teacher or  
11 administrator may take a leave of absence to accept employment  
12 by a charter technical career center upon the approval of the  
13 school district or community college.

14           (h) An employee who is on a leave of absence under  
15 this section may retain seniority accrued in that school  
16 district or college and may continue to be covered by the  
17 benefit programs of that district or college if the center and  
18 the district school board or community college board of  
19 trustees agree to this arrangement and its financing.

20           (13) BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUTHORITY.--The board of  
21 directors of a center may decide matters relating to the  
22 operation of the school, including budgeting, curriculum, and  
23 operating procedures, subject to the center's charter.

24           (14) ACCOUNTABILITY.--Each center must submit a report  
25 to the participating school board or district community  
26 college board of trustees by August 1 of each year. The  
27 report must be in such form as the sponsor prescribes and must  
28 include:

29           (a) A discussion of progress made toward the  
30 achievement of the goals outlined in the center's charter; and  
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1           (b) A financial statement setting forth by appropriate  
2 categories the revenue and expenditures for the previous  
3 school year.

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5 Any person may bring before the board of directors of a center  
6 a complaint alleging a violation of this section. If, after  
7 presenting the complaint, the person feels that the board has  
8 not adequately addressed the grievance, he or she may present  
9 that complaint to the sponsoring board, which must investigate  
10 the complaint.

11           (15) TERMS OF THE CHARTER.--The term of an initial  
12 charter may not exceed 5 years. Thereafter, the sponsor may  
13 renew a charter for a period up to 5 years. The sponsor may  
14 refuse to renew a charter or may revoke a charter if the  
15 center has not fulfilled a condition imposed under the charter  
16 or if the center has violated any provision of the charter.  
17 The sponsor may place the center on probationary status to  
18 allow the implementation of a remedial plan, after which, if  
19 the plan is unsuccessful, the charter may be summarily  
20 revoked. The sponsor shall develop procedures and guidelines  
21 for the revocation and renewal of a center's charter. The  
22 sponsor must give written notice of its intent not to renew  
23 the charter at least 12 months before the charter expires. If  
24 the sponsor revokes a charter before the scheduled expiration  
25 date, the sponsor must provide written notice to the governing  
26 board of the center at least 60 days before the date of  
27 termination, stating the grounds for the proposed revocation.  
28 The governing board of the center may request in writing an  
29 informal hearing before the sponsor within 14 days after  
30 receiving the notice of revocation. A revocation takes effect  
31 at the conclusion of a school year, unless the sponsor

1 determines that earlier revocation is necessary to protect the  
2 health, safety, and welfare of students. The sponsor shall  
3 monitor and review the center in its progress towards the  
4 goals established in the charter and shall monitor the  
5 revenues and expenditures of the center.

6 (16) TRANSPORTATION.--The center may provide  
7 transportation, pursuant to chapter 234, Florida Statutes,  
8 through a contract with the district school board or the  
9 community college district board of trustees, a private  
10 provider, or parents of students. The center must ensure that  
11 transportation is not a barrier to equal access for all  
12 students in grades K-12 residing within a reasonable distance  
13 of the facility.

14 (17) IMMUNITY.--For the purposes of tort liability,  
15 the governing body and employees of a center are governed by  
16 section 768.28, Florida Statutes.

17 (18) RULES.--The State Board of Education shall adopt  
18 rules, pursuant to chapter 120, Florida Statutes, relating to  
19 the implementation of charter technical career centers.

20 (19) EVALUATION; REPORT.--The Commissioner of  
21 Education shall provide for an annual comparative evaluation  
22 of charter technical career centers and public technical  
23 centers. The evaluation may be conducted in cooperation with  
24 the sponsor, through private contracts, or by department  
25 staff. At a minimum, the comparative evaluation must address  
26 the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of the  
27 students served, the types and costs of services provided, and  
28 the outcomes achieved. By December 30 of each year, the  
29 Commissioner of Education shall submit to the Governor, the  
30 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
31 Representatives, and the Senate and House committees that have

1 responsibility for secondary and postsecondary career  
2 education a report of the comparative evaluation completed for  
3 the previous school year.

4 Section 2. Subsection (34) of section 121.021, Florida  
5 Statutes, is amended to read:

6 121.021 Definitions.--The following words and phrases  
7 as used in this chapter have the respective meanings set forth  
8 unless a different meaning is plainly required by the context:

9 (34) "Covered group" means the officers and employees  
10 of an employer who become members under this chapter. "Covered  
11 group" applies also when the employer is a charter technical  
12 career center, charter school, special district, or city for  
13 which coverage under this chapter is applied for by the  
14 employer and approved for social security coverage by the  
15 United States Secretary of Health and Human Services and  
16 approved by the administrator for membership under this  
17 chapter. Members of a firefighters' pension trust fund or a  
18 municipal police officers' retirement trust fund, established  
19 in accordance with chapter 175 or chapter 185, respectively,  
20 shall be considered eligible for membership under this chapter  
21 only after holding a referendum and by affirmative majority  
22 vote electing coverage under this chapter.

23 Section 3. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section  
24 121.051, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

25 121.051 Participation in the system.--

26 (2) OPTIONAL PARTICIPATION.--

27 (c) Employees of members of the State Community  
28 College System or charter technical career centers sponsored  
29 by members of the State Community College System, as  
30 designated in s. 240.3031, who are members of the Regular  
31 Class of the Florida Retirement System and who comply with the

1 criteria set forth in this paragraph and in s. 240.3195 may  
2 elect, in lieu of participating in the Florida Retirement  
3 System, to withdraw from the Florida Retirement System  
4 altogether and participate in a lifetime monthly annuity  
5 program, to be known as the State Community College System  
6 Optional Retirement Program, which may be provided by the  
7 employing agency under s. 240.3195. Pursuant thereto:

8         1. The cost to the employer for such annuity shall  
9 equal the normal cost portion of the employer retirement  
10 contribution which would be required if the employee were a  
11 member of the Regular Class, plus the portion of the  
12 contribution rate required by s. 112.363(8) that would  
13 otherwise be assigned to the Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy  
14 Trust Fund, and less an amount approved by the employer to  
15 provide for the administration of the optional retirement  
16 program. The employer providing such annuity shall contribute  
17 an additional amount to the Florida Retirement System Trust  
18 Fund equal to the unfunded actuarial accrued liability portion  
19 of the Regular Class contribution rate.

20         2. The decision to participate in such an optional  
21 retirement program shall be irrevocable for as long as the  
22 employee holds a position eligible for participation. Any  
23 service creditable under the Florida Retirement System shall  
24 be retained after the member withdraws from the Florida  
25 Retirement System; however, additional service credit in the  
26 Florida Retirement System shall not be earned while a member  
27 of the optional retirement program.

28         3. Participation in an optional annuity program shall  
29 be limited to those employees who satisfy the following  
30 eligibility criteria:

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1           a. The employee must be otherwise eligible for  
2 membership in the Regular Class of the Florida Retirement  
3 System, as provided in s. 121.021(11) and (12).

4           b. The employee must be employed in a full-time  
5 position classified in the Accounting Manual for Florida's  
6 Public Community Colleges as:

7               (I) Instructional; or

8               (II) Executive Management, Instructional Management,  
9 or Institutional Management, if a community college determines  
10 that recruiting to fill a vacancy in the position is to be  
11 conducted in the national or regional market, and:

12               (A) The duties and responsibilities of the position  
13 include either the formulation, interpretation, or  
14 implementation of policies; or

15               (B) The duties and responsibilities of the position  
16 include the performance of functions that are unique or  
17 specialized within higher education and that frequently  
18 involve the support of the mission of the community college.

19           c. The employee must be employed in a position not  
20 included in the Senior Management Service Class of the Florida  
21 Retirement System, as described in s. 121.055.

22           4. Participants in the program are subject to the same  
23 reemployment limitations, renewed membership provisions, and  
24 forfeiture provisions as are applicable to regular members of  
25 the Florida Retirement System under ss. 121.091(9), 121.122,  
26 and 121.091(5), respectively.

27           5. Eligible community college employees shall be  
28 compulsory members of the Florida Retirement System until,  
29 pursuant to the procedures set forth in s. 240.3195, the first  
30 day of the next full calendar month following the filing of  
31 both a written election to withdraw and a completed

1 application for an individual contract or certificate with the  
2 program administrator and receipt of such election by the  
3 division.

4 Section 4. Subsection (7) of section 236.081, Florida  
5 Statutes, is amended to read:

6 236.081 Funds for operation of schools.--If the annual  
7 allocation from the Florida Education Finance Program to each  
8 district for operation of schools is not determined in the  
9 annual appropriations act or the substantive bill implementing  
10 the annual appropriations act, it shall be determined as  
11 follows:

12 (7) DECLINE IN FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT STUDENTS.--In  
13 those districts where there is a decline between prior year  
14 and current year unweighted FTE students, 50 percent of the  
15 decline in the unweighted FTE students shall be multiplied by  
16 the prior year calculated FEFP per unweighted FTE student and  
17 shall be added to the allocation for that district. For this  
18 purpose, the calculated FEFP shall be computed by multiplying  
19 the weighted FTE students by the base student allocation and  
20 then by the district cost differential. If a district  
21 transfers a program to another institution not under the  
22 authority of the district's school board, including a charter  
23 technical career center, the decline is to be multiplied by a  
24 factor of 0.15.

25 Section 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a  
26 law.

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STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SB 2074

The Committee Substitute:

Requires the school district or the community college in whose geographic region the charter technical career center is located to be the sponsor or part of the consortium that sponsors a center.

Requires approval of the charter by both the school district and community college in whose geographic region the charter technical career center is located.

Requires a district school board or community college board of trustees to approve a leave of absence for its teachers to accept employment by a charter technical career center.

Makes technical changes in linguistic constructions that are confusing or in error.