

By Representative Ritter

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to charter schools; amending s.  
3           228.056, F.S.; revising provisions relating to  
4           the purpose of charter schools; revising  
5           provisions relating to compliance with the  
6           Florida Building Code; providing for compliance  
7           with the Life Safety Code; requiring charter  
8           schools to be classified as public schools for  
9           the purpose of certain fees; providing for  
10          exemption from certain fees; providing  
11          requirements for hearings and administrative  
12          reviews; providing an effective date.

13  
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

15  
16           Section 1. Subsection (2) and paragraph (c) of  
17 subsection (17) of section 228.056, Florida Statutes, are  
18 amended, and paragraph (d) is added to subsection (17) of said  
19 section, to read:

20           228.056 Charter schools.--

21           (2) PURPOSE.--The purpose of charter schools is to  
22 accomplish some or all of the following ~~shall be to~~:

23           (a) Improve student learning.

24           (b) Increase learning opportunities for all students,  
25 with special emphasis on expanded learning experiences for  
26 students who are identified as academically low achieving.

27           (c) Encourage the use of different and innovative  
28 learning methods.

29           (d) Increase choice of learning opportunities for  
30 students.

31

- 1           (e) Establish a new form of accountability for  
2 schools.
- 3           (f) Require the measurement of learning outcomes and  
4 create innovative measurement tools.
- 5           (g) Make the school the unit for improvement.
- 6           (h) Create new professional opportunities for  
7 teachers, including the opportunity to own the learning  
8 program at the school site.
- 9           (i) Provide rigorous competition within the public  
10 school district to stimulate continual improvement in all  
11 public schools.
- 12           (j) Provide additional academic choices for parents  
13 and students.
- 14           (k) Expand the capacity of the public school system.
- 15           (17) FACILITIES.--
- 16           (c) After the Florida Building Code takes effect  
17 ~~January 1, 2001~~, a charter school facilities shall utilize  
18 facilities that ~~which~~ comply with the Florida Building Code,  
19 pursuant to chapter 553, and the Florida Fire Prevention Code  
20 and the Life Safety Code, pursuant to chapter 633. The  
21 facilities shall either comply with the requirements for  
22 public education facilities specified in the Florida Building  
23 Code or shall be exempt from such requirements, in which case  
24 the facilities shall comply with all other requirements for  
25 educational occupancies specified in the Florida Building  
26 Code. Facilities owned by or leased from a district school  
27 board must comply with the requirements for public education  
28 facilities specified in the Florida Building Code.
- 29           (d) Charter schools shall be classified as public  
30 schools for the purpose of the assessment of zoning fees, site  
31 plan fees, and development fees. Charter school facilities are

1 exempt from assessment of fees for building permits, except as  
2 provided in s. 553.80, and impact fees or service availability  
3 fees. Municipalities and counties shall adopt procedures to  
4 ensure that hearings and administrative reviews involving  
5 charter schools are scheduled and conducted on an expedited  
6 basis and that charter schools receive a final determination  
7 from the municipality or county within 30 days after the  
8 beginning of a process that requires only an administrative  
9 review and within 90 days after the beginning of a process  
10 that requires a public hearing and allows an appeal to a board  
11 of adjustment, city or town council, or board of supervisors.  
12 No political subdivision of this state may enact or interpret  
13 any law, rule, or ordinance in a manner that conflicts with  
14 the provisions of this paragraph.

15 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

16 \*\*\*\*\*

17  
18 HOUSE SUMMARY

19  
20 Revises provisions relating to the purpose of charter  
21 schools. Revises provisions relating to compliance with  
22 the Florida Building Code, and requires compliance with  
23 the Life Safety Code in addition to the Florida Fire  
24 Prevention Code. Requires charter schools to be  
classified as public schools for the purpose of certain  
fees and provides for exemption from certain fees.  
Provides requirements for hearings and administrative  
reviews involving charter schools.