

By the Council for Lifelong Learning and 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 zoning approval and the  
10          assessment of certain fees; providing for  
11          exemption from certain fees; providing  
12          requirements for hearings and administrative  
13          reviews; providing an effective date.

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

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

21           228.056 Charter schools.--

22           (2) PURPOSE.--The purpose of charter schools shall be  
23          to:

24           (a) Improve student learning.

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

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

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

- 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.  
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- 16 Nothing in this subsection shall require an individual charter  
17 school to comply with all of the purposes listed herein.
- 18           (17) FACILITIES.--
- 19           (c) After the Florida Building Code takes effect  
20 January 1, 2001, a charter school facilities shall utilize  
21 facilities that which comply with the Florida Building Code,  
22 pursuant to chapter 553, and the Florida Fire Prevention Code  
23 and the Life Safety Code, pursuant to chapter 633. The  
24 facilities shall either comply with the requirements for  
25 public educational facilities specified in the Florida  
26 Building Code or shall be exempt from such requirements, in  
27 which case the facilities shall comply with all other  
28 requirements for educational occupancies specified in the  
29 Florida Building Code. Facilities owned by or leased from a  
30 district school board must comply with the requirements for  
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1 public educational facilities specified in the Florida  
2 Building Code.  
3 (d) Charter schools shall be classified as public  
4 schools for the purpose of zoning approval and the assessment  
5 of zoning fees, site plan fees, and development fees. Charter  
6 school facilities are exempt from assessment of fees for  
7 building permits, except as provided in s. 553.80, and impact  
8 fees or service availability fees. Municipalities and counties  
9 shall adopt procedures to ensure that hearings and  
10 administrative reviews involving charter schools are scheduled  
11 and conducted on an expedited basis and that charter schools  
12 receive a final determination from the municipality or county  
13 within 30 days after the beginning of a process that requires  
14 only an administrative review and within 90 days after the  
15 beginning of a process that requires a public hearing and  
16 allows an appeal to a board of adjustment, city or town  
17 council, or board of supervisors. No political subdivision of  
18 this state may enact or interpret any law, rule, or ordinance  
19 in a manner that conflicts with the provisions of this  
20 paragraph.

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