



HB 1507

2003

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to charter school districts; amending s.
3 1003.62, F.S.; revising provisions relating to the charter
4 school districts pilot program; authorizing designation of
5 charter school districts based on the performance grade
6 categories of schools in the school district; providing
7 length of charter and conditions for renewal; providing an
8 effective date.

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

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12 Section 1. Section 1003.62, Florida Statutes, is amended
13 to read:

14 1003.62 Charter school districts pilot program.--

15 (1) PILOT PROGRAM.--

16 (a) The State Board of Education is authorized to enter
17 into a performance contract with up to six district school
18 boards for the purpose of establishing them as charter school
19 districts. The State Board of Education shall give priority to
20 Hillsborough and Volusia Counties upon the submission of a
21 completed precharter agreement or charter proposal for a charter
22 school district.

23 (b) A school district in which a minimum of 50 percent of
24 the schools earn a performance grade category "A" or "B" and in
25 which no school earns a performance grade category "D" or "F"
26 pursuant to s. 1008.34 shall be eligible to be designated as a
27 charter school district. Schools that receive a performance
28 grade category "I" or "N" shall not be included in this
29 calculation. The performance contract for a school district that
30 earns a charter based on school performance grades shall be



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31 predicated on maintenance of at least half of the schools
32 earning a performance grade category "A" or "B," with no schools
33 in the school district earning a performance grade category "D"
34 or "F."

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36 The purpose of this pilot program is to examine a new
37 relationship between the State Board of Education and district
38 school boards that may produce significant improvements in
39 student achievement and school management, while complying with
40 constitutional requirements assigned to each entity.

41 (2)(1) CHARTER DISTRICT.--

42 (a) A charter school district established pursuant to
43 paragraph (1)(a) is a school district in Florida in which the
44 district school board has submitted and the State Board of
45 Education has approved a charter proposal that exchanges
46 statutory and rule exemption for agreement to meet performance
47 goals in the proposal. The charter school district shall be
48 chartered for 3 years, at the end of which the performance shall
49 be evaluated.

50 (b) A charter school district established pursuant to
51 paragraph (1)(b) that qualifies based on school performance
52 grade categories shall be chartered for 1 year.

53 (3)(2) EXEMPTION FROM STATUTES AND RULES.--Charter school
54 districts shall be exempt from state statutes and specified
55 State Board of Education rules. The district school board of a
56 charter school district shall not be exempt from any statute
57 governing election of district school board members, public
58 meetings and public records requirements, financial disclosure,
59 conflicts of interest, operation in the sunshine, or any
60 provisions outside the Florida K-20 Education Code.



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61 ~~(4)~~~~(3)~~ GOVERNING BOARD.--The governing board of the
62 charter school district shall be the duly elected district
63 school board. The district school board shall be responsible for
64 supervising the schools in the charter district and is
65 authorized to charter each of its existing public schools
66 pursuant to s. 1002.33, apply for deregulation of its public
67 schools pursuant to s. 1003.63, or otherwise establish
68 performance-based contractual relationships with its public
69 schools for the purpose of giving them greater autonomy with
70 accountability for performance.

71 ~~(5)~~~~(4)~~ PRECHARTER AGREEMENT.--The State Board of Education
72 is authorized to approve a precharter agreement with a potential
73 charter district established pursuant to paragraph (1)(a). The
74 agreement may grant limited flexibility and direction for
75 developing the full charter proposal.

76 ~~(6)~~~~(5)~~ TIME PERIOD FOR PILOT.--The pilot program charter
77 school districts established pursuant to paragraph (1)(a) shall
78 be authorized for a period of 3 full school years commencing
79 with award of a charter. The charter may be renewed upon action
80 of the State Board of Education. The pilot program charter
81 school districts established pursuant to paragraph (1)(b) shall
82 be authorized for 1 full school year and shall be renewed each
83 year that the school district continues to qualify based on the
84 school performance grades within that school district.

85 ~~(7)~~~~(6)~~ REPORTS.--The State Board of Education shall
86 annually report on the implementation of the charter school
87 district pilot program. Upon the completion of the first 3-year
88 term for charter school districts established pursuant to
89 paragraph (1)(a), the State Board of Education, through the



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90 Commissioner of Education, shall submit to the Legislature a
91 full evaluation of the effectiveness of the program.

92 (8)~~(7)~~ RULEMAKING.--The State Board of Education shall
93 have the authority to enact rules to implement this section in
94 accordance with ss. 120.536 and 120.54.

95 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.