

By Senator Lynn

7-1287-04

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31

A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to charter schools; amending s.  
1002.33, F.S.; prohibiting the consideration of  
an application for charter school status for  
grades below kindergarten; prohibiting the  
renewal of previously granted charter school  
status that includes prekindergarten levels;  
providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 1002.33, Florida  
Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.33 Charter schools.--

(3) APPLICATION FOR CHARTER STATUS.--

(a) An application for a new charter school may be  
made by an individual, teachers, parents, a group of  
individuals, a municipality, or a legal entity organized under  
the laws of this state.

(b) An application for a charter school may not be  
considered if the applicant proposes to include in the charter  
school a grade level below the level of kindergarten. If,  
before July 1, 2004, a school district has approved charter  
status for a school that includes a grade level below the  
level of kindergarten, the school district may not include a  
prekindergarten level in a renewed charter contract.

(c)~~(b)~~ An application for a conversion charter school  
shall be made by the district school board, the principal,  
teachers, parents, and/or the school advisory council at an  
existing public school that has been in operation for at least  
2 years prior to the application to convert, including a

1 public school-within-a-school that is designated as a school  
2 by the district school board. An application submitted  
3 proposing to convert an existing public school to a charter  
4 school shall demonstrate the support of at least 50 percent of  
5 the teachers employed at the school and 50 percent of the  
6 parents voting whose children are enrolled at the school,  
7 provided that a majority of the parents eligible to vote  
8 participate in the ballot process, according to rules adopted  
9 by the State Board of Education. A district school board  
10 denying an application for a conversion charter school shall  
11 provide notice of denial to the applicants in writing within  
12 30 days after the meeting at which the district school board  
13 denied the application. The notice must specify the exact  
14 reasons for denial and must provide documentation supporting  
15 those reasons. A private school, parochial school, or home  
16 education program shall not be eligible for charter school  
17 status.

18 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.

19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31

\*\*\*\*\*

SENATE SUMMARY

Prohibits considering an application for charter school  
status which applies to grades below kindergarten.  
Prohibits including prekindergarten levels when renewing  
charter school status that was granted before July 1,  
2004.