

By Senator Brandes

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to charter schools; amending s.
3 1002.331, F.S.; providing an exception to the
4 prohibition on a high-performing charter school
5 establishing more than one charter school in this
6 state under specified circumstances; amending s.
7 1002.332, F.S.; authorizing certain out-of-state
8 entities to apply for designation as a high-performing
9 charter school system; requiring the State Board of
10 Education to adopt by rule eligibility criteria for
11 such designation; requiring that charter schools
12 established by such entities receive a reduction in
13 certain administrative fees; providing an effective
14 date.

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

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18 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) and subsection
19 (5) of section 1002.331, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
20 1002.331 High-performing charter schools.—

21 (3)

22 (b) A high-performing charter school may not establish more
23 than one charter school within the state under paragraph (a) in
24 any year. A subsequent application to establish a charter school
25 under paragraph (a) may not be submitted unless each charter
26 school established in this manner achieves high-performing
27 charter school status. The limits set forth in this paragraph do
28 not apply to charter schools established by a high-performing
29 charter school in the attendance zone of a school identified as

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30 in need of intervention and support pursuant to s. 1008.33(3)(b)
31 or to meet capacity needs or to meet needs for innovative choice
32 options identified by the district school board.

33 (5) The Commissioner of Education, upon request by a
34 charter school, shall verify that the charter school meets the
35 criteria in subsection (1) and provide a letter to the charter
36 school and the sponsor stating that the charter school is a
37 high-performing charter school pursuant to this section. The
38 commissioner shall annually determine whether a high-performing
39 charter school under subsection (1) continues to meet the
40 criteria in that subsection. Such high-performing charter school
41 shall maintain its high-performing status unless the
42 commissioner determines that the charter school no longer meets
43 the criteria in subsection (1), at which time the commissioner
44 shall send a letter to the charter school and its sponsor
45 providing notification that the charter school has been
46 declassified ~~of its declassification~~ as a high-performing
47 charter school.

48 Section 2. Present subsection (2) of section 1002.332,
49 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (3), and a new
50 subsection (2) is added to that section, to read:

51 1002.332 High-performing charter school system.-

52 (2) An entity that successfully operates a system of
53 charter schools outside the state may apply to the State Board
54 of Education for status as a high-performing charter school
55 system. The state board shall adopt rules prescribing a process
56 for determining whether the entity meets the requirements of
57 this subsection by reviewing student demographic and performance
58 data and fiscal accountability of all schools operated by the

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59 entity. To the extent practicable, the state board shall develop
60 a rubric for the approval of such entities which aligns with the
61 priorities of the federal Charter Schools Program Grants for
62 Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools in the
63 Federal Register, Volume 76, No. 133. An entity classified as a
64 high-performing charter school system pursuant to this
65 subsection may submit an application in the same manner as
66 specified in s. 1002.331(3) to establish and operate a new
67 charter school in this state. For the first 3 school years of
68 operation, each charter school established by such an entity
69 shall receive a reduction in administrative fees as authorized
70 under s. 1002.33(20)(a)3.

71 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.