

By the Committee on Education; and Senator Diaz

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to charter schools; amending s.  
3       1002.33, F.S.; revising requirements for the annual  
4       reports that charter school sponsors are required to  
5       submit to the Department of Education; requiring the  
6       Charter School Appeal Commission, which is renamed the  
7       Charter School Commission, to recommend denial of a  
8       charter school application if the school does not  
9       propose a certain reading curriculum; specifying the  
10      entities from which the commission may receive and  
11      consider applications; providing that the commission  
12      may recommend approval of applications to the State  
13      Board of Education; providing that sponsors may appeal  
14      such recommendations to the state board; providing a  
15      process for the review of appeals; requiring the  
16      Commissioner of Education to review appeals and make  
17      recommendations to the state board; providing the  
18      process for that review and for consideration by the  
19      state board of the commissioner's recommendations;  
20      requiring action by the state board on the  
21      recommendation within a specified timeframe; requiring  
22      sponsors to implement the decision of the state board;  
23      authorizing applicants to appeal to the state board  
24      certain recommendations by the commission or the  
25      commission's failure to act on an application;  
26      providing the process for such review and the  
27      disposition of such appeals; conforming provisions to  
28      changes made by the act; authorizing applicants to  
29      appeal to the state board if the commission fails to

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30 act on an application; requiring the commission to  
31 articulate its recommendation for denial of an  
32 application to the department within a specified  
33 timeframe after such denial; authorizing the  
34 commission to recommend denial of applications  
35 submitted by certain entities, under specified  
36 circumstances; requiring the commission to articulate  
37 its recommendation for denial of such applications to  
38 the department within a specified timeframe;  
39 authorizing applicants to appeal the commission's  
40 recommendation for denial of an application;  
41 authorizing sponsors to provide input regarding final  
42 applications to the commission within a specified  
43 timeframe; requiring the commission to consider such  
44 input; requiring the commission to submit  
45 recommendations for approval of charter school  
46 applications to the state board; authorizing sponsors  
47 to appeal to the state board such recommendations  
48 within a specified timeframe after the commission's  
49 decision; requiring the Commissioner of Education to  
50 review such appeals and make recommendations to the  
51 state board within a specified timeframe; requiring  
52 the state board to accept or reject such  
53 recommendations by majority vote; requiring sponsors  
54 to implement decisions of the state board; providing  
55 that state board decisions are not subject to  
56 specified provisions; conforming provisions to changes  
57 made by the act; authorizing applicants to appeal  
58 recommendations for denial of an application or the

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59 failure to act on applications; requiring the state  
60 board to notify the commissioner of such appeals;  
61 requiring the commissioner to review such appeals and  
62 make recommendations to the state board; authorizing  
63 the commissioner to reject appeal submissions under  
64 specified circumstances; conforming provisions to  
65 changes made by the act; prohibiting specified  
66 individuals and entities from submitting an  
67 application to open a charter school for specified  
68 periods of time; providing an exception; defining the  
69 term "relative" for the purpose of applying the  
70 prohibition; providing an effective date.

71

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

73

74 Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) and subsection  
75 (6) of section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, are amended, and  
76 paragraph (r) is added to subsection (9) of that section, to  
77 read:

78 1002.33 Charter schools.—

79 (5) SPONSOR; DUTIES.—

80 (b) *Sponsor duties*.—

81 1.a. The sponsor shall monitor and review the charter  
82 school in its progress toward the goals established in the  
83 charter.

84 b. The sponsor shall monitor the revenues and expenditures  
85 of the charter school and perform the duties provided in s.  
86 1002.345.

87 c. The sponsor may approve a charter for a charter school

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88 before the applicant has identified space, equipment, or  
89 personnel, if the applicant indicates approval is necessary for  
90 it to raise working funds.

91 d. The sponsor shall not apply its policies to a charter  
92 school unless mutually agreed to by both the sponsor and the  
93 charter school. If the sponsor subsequently amends any agreed-  
94 upon sponsor policy, the version of the policy in effect at the  
95 time of the execution of the charter, or any subsequent  
96 modification thereof, shall remain in effect and the sponsor may  
97 not hold the charter school responsible for any provision of a  
98 newly revised policy until the revised policy is mutually agreed  
99 upon.

100 e. The sponsor shall ensure that the charter is innovative  
101 and consistent with the state education goals established by s.  
102 1000.03(5).

103 f. The sponsor shall ensure that the charter school  
104 participates in the state's education accountability system. If  
105 a charter school falls short of performance measures included in  
106 the approved charter, the sponsor shall report such shortcomings  
107 to the Department of Education.

108 g. The sponsor shall not be liable for civil damages under  
109 state law for personal injury, property damage, or death  
110 resulting from an act or omission of an officer, employee,  
111 agent, or governing body of the charter school.

112 h. The sponsor shall not be liable for civil damages under  
113 state law for any employment actions taken by an officer,  
114 employee, agent, or governing body of the charter school.

115 i. The sponsor's duties to monitor the charter school shall  
116 not constitute the basis for a private cause of action.

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117 j. The sponsor shall not impose additional reporting  
118 requirements on a charter school without providing reasonable  
119 and specific justification in writing to the charter school.

120 k. The sponsor shall submit an annual report to the  
121 Department of Education in a web-based format to be determined  
122 by the department.

123 (I) The report shall include the following information for  
124 applications reviewed by the sponsor and by the Charter School  
125 Commission established under subparagraph (6) (e)1., hereinafter  
126 referred to as "the commission":

127 (A) The number of draft applications received on or before  
128 May 1 and each applicant's contact information.

129 (B) The number of final applications received on or before  
130 August 1 and each applicant's contact information.

131 (C) The date each application was approved, denied, or  
132 withdrawn.

133 (D) The date each final contract was executed.

134 (II) Beginning August 31, 2013, and each year thereafter,  
135 the sponsor shall submit to the department the information for  
136 the applications submitted the previous year.

137 (III) The department shall compile an annual report, by  
138 district, and post the report on its website by November 1 of  
139 each year.

140 2. Immunity for the sponsor of a charter school under  
141 subparagraph 1. applies only with respect to acts or omissions  
142 not under the sponsor's direct authority as described in this  
143 section.

144 3. This paragraph does not waive a district school board's  
145 sovereign immunity.

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146 4. A Florida College System institution may work with the  
147 school district or school districts in its designated service  
148 area to develop charter schools that offer secondary education.  
149 These charter schools must include an option for students to  
150 receive an associate degree upon high school graduation. If a  
151 Florida College System institution operates an approved teacher  
152 preparation program under s. 1004.04 or s. 1004.85, the  
153 institution may operate no more than one charter school that  
154 serves students in kindergarten through grade 12. In  
155 kindergarten through grade 8, the charter school shall implement  
156 innovative blended learning instructional models in which, for a  
157 given course, a student learns in part through online delivery  
158 of content and instruction with some element of student control  
159 over time, place, path, or pace and in part at a supervised  
160 brick-and-mortar location away from home. A student in a blended  
161 learning course must be a full-time student of the charter  
162 school and receive the online instruction in a classroom setting  
163 at the charter school. District school boards shall cooperate  
164 with and assist the Florida College System institution on the  
165 charter application. Florida College System institution  
166 applications for charter schools are not subject to the time  
167 deadlines outlined in subsection (6) and may be approved by the  
168 district school board at any time during the year. Florida  
169 College System institutions may not report FTE for any students  
170 who receive FTE funding through the Florida Education Finance  
171 Program.

172 5. A school district may enter into nonexclusive interlocal  
173 agreements with federal and state agencies, counties,  
174 municipalities, and other governmental entities that operate

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175 within the geographical borders of the school district to act on  
176 behalf of such governmental entities in the inspection,  
177 issuance, and other necessary activities for all necessary  
178 permits, licenses, and other permissions that a charter school  
179 needs in order for development, construction, or operation. A  
180 charter school may use, but may not be required to use, a school  
181 district for these services. The interlocal agreement must  
182 include, but need not be limited to, the identification of fees  
183 that charter schools will be charged for such services. The fees  
184 must consist of the governmental entity's fees plus a fee for  
185 the school district to recover no more than actual costs for  
186 providing such services. These services and fees are not  
187 included within the services to be provided pursuant to  
188 subsection (20).

189 (6) APPLICATION PROCESS AND REVIEW.—Charter school  
190 applications are subject to the following requirements:

191 (a) A person or entity seeking to open a charter school  
192 shall prepare and submit an application on the standard  
193 application form prepared by the Department of Education which:

194 1. Demonstrates how the school will use the guiding  
195 principles and meet the statutorily defined purpose of a charter  
196 school.

197 2. Provides a detailed curriculum plan that illustrates how  
198 students will be provided services to attain the Sunshine State  
199 Standards.

200 3. Contains goals and objectives for improving student  
201 learning and measuring that improvement. These goals and  
202 objectives must indicate how much academic improvement students  
203 are expected to show each year, how success will be evaluated,

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204 and the specific results to be attained through instruction.

205 4. Describes the reading curriculum and differentiated  
206 strategies that will be used for students reading at grade level  
207 or higher and a separate curriculum and strategies for students  
208 who are reading below grade level. A sponsor shall deny, or the  
209 commission shall recommend denial of, an application if the  
210 school does not propose a reading curriculum that is consistent  
211 with effective teaching strategies that are grounded in  
212 scientifically based reading research.

213 5. Contains an annual financial plan for each year  
214 requested by the charter for operation of the school for up to 5  
215 years. This plan must contain anticipated fund balances based on  
216 revenue projections, a spending plan based on projected revenues  
217 and expenses, and a description of controls that will safeguard  
218 finances and projected enrollment trends.

219 6. Discloses the name of each applicant, governing board  
220 member, and all proposed education services providers; the name  
221 and sponsor of any charter school operated by each applicant,  
222 each governing board member, and each proposed education  
223 services provider that has closed and the reasons for the  
224 closure; and the academic and financial history of such charter  
225 schools, which the sponsor or the commission, as applicable,  
226 shall consider in making a final determination on ~~deciding~~  
227 ~~whether to approve or deny~~ the application.

228 7. Contains additional information that the ~~a~~ sponsor or  
229 the commission may require, which must ~~shall~~ be attached as an  
230 addendum to the charter school application described in this  
231 paragraph.

232 8. For the establishment of a virtual charter school,

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233 documents that the applicant has contracted with a provider of  
234 virtual instruction services pursuant to s. 1002.45(1)(d).

235 (b) An applicant may submit an application to a sponsor or  
236 to the commission pursuant to subparagraph 1. The A sponsor or  
237 the commission, as applicable, shall receive and review all  
238 applications for a charter school using the evaluation  
239 instrument developed by the Department of Education. An  
240 applicant that submits an application to the commission also  
241 shall provide the application to the sponsor within 3 days after  
242 its submission to the commission ~~A sponsor shall receive and~~  
243 ~~consider charter school applications received on or before~~  
244 ~~August 1 of each calendar year for charter schools to be opened~~  
245 ~~at the beginning of the school district's next school year, or~~  
246 ~~to be opened at a time agreed to by the applicant and the~~  
247 ~~sponsor. A sponsor may not refuse to receive a charter school~~  
248 ~~application submitted before August 1 and may receive an~~  
249 ~~application submitted later than August 1 if it chooses.~~  
250 ~~Beginning in 2018 and thereafter,~~ A sponsor or the commission,  
251 as applicable, shall receive and consider charter school  
252 applications received on or before February 1 of each calendar  
253 year for charter schools to be opened 18 months later at the  
254 beginning of the school district's school year, or to be opened  
255 at a time determined by the applicant. A sponsor and the  
256 commission may not refuse to receive a charter school  
257 application submitted before February 1 and may receive an  
258 application submitted later than February 1 if the sponsor or  
259 the commission ~~it~~ chooses. A sponsor and the commission may not  
260 charge an applicant for a charter any fee for the processing or  
261 consideration of an application, and a sponsor and the

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262 commission may not base their ~~its~~ consideration or approval of a  
263 final application upon the promise of future payment of any  
264 kind. Before approving or denying any application, the sponsor  
265 or the commission, as applicable, shall allow the applicant,  
266 upon receipt of written notification, at least 7 calendar days  
267 to make technical or nonsubstantive corrections and  
268 clarifications, including, but not limited to, corrections of  
269 grammatical, typographical, and like errors or missing  
270 signatures, if such errors are identified by the sponsor or the  
271 commission as cause to deny the final application.

272 1. The commission may receive and consider applications  
273 from:

274 a. A high-performing charter school pursuant to s.  
275 1002.331.

276 b. A high-performing charter school system pursuant to s.  
277 1002.332.

278 c. A hope operator pursuant to s. 1002.333.

279 ~~2.1.~~ In order to facilitate an accurate budget projection  
280 process, a sponsor shall be held harmless for FTE students who  
281 are not included in the FTE projection due to approval of  
282 charter school applications after the FTE projection deadline.  
283 In a further effort to facilitate an accurate budget projection,  
284 within 15 calendar days after receipt of a charter school  
285 application, a sponsor shall report to the Department of  
286 Education the name of the applicant entity, the proposed charter  
287 school location, and its projected FTE.

288 ~~3.2.~~ In order to ensure fiscal responsibility, an  
289 application for a charter school shall include a full accounting  
290 of expected assets, a projection of expected sources and amounts

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291 of income, including income derived from projected student  
292 enrollments and from community support, and an expense  
293 projection that includes full accounting of the costs of  
294 operation, including start-up costs.

295 ~~4.a.3.a.~~ A sponsor shall by a majority vote approve or  
296 deny, or the commission shall by majority vote recommend to  
297 approve or deny, an application no later than 90 calendar days  
298 after the application is received, unless the sponsor or the  
299 commission and the applicant mutually agree in writing to  
300 temporarily postpone the vote to a specific date, at which time  
301 the sponsor shall by a majority vote approve or deny, or the  
302 commission shall by a majority vote recommend to approve or  
303 deny, the application. If the sponsor or the commission fails to  
304 act on the application, an applicant may appeal to the State  
305 Board of Education as provided in paragraph (c). If an  
306 application is denied or recommended for denial, the sponsor or  
307 the commission shall, within 10 calendar days after such denial,  
308 articulate in writing the specific reasons, based upon good  
309 cause, supporting its denial of the application and shall  
310 provide the letter of denial and supporting documentation to the  
311 applicant and to the Department of Education.

312 b. An application submitted by a high-performing charter  
313 school identified pursuant to s. 1002.331 or a high-performing  
314 charter school system identified pursuant to s. 1002.332 may be  
315 denied by the sponsor or recommended for denial by the  
316 commission only if the sponsor or the commission demonstrates by  
317 clear and convincing evidence that:

318 (I) The application of a high-performing charter school  
319 does not materially comply with the requirements in paragraph

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320 (a) or, for a high-performing charter school system, the  
321 application does not materially comply with s. 1002.332(2)(b);

322 (II) The charter school proposed in the application does  
323 not materially comply with the requirements in paragraphs  
324 (9)(a)-(f);

325 (III) The proposed charter school's educational program  
326 does not substantially replicate that of the applicant or one of  
327 the applicant's high-performing charter schools;

328 (IV) The applicant has made a material misrepresentation or  
329 false statement or concealed an essential or material fact  
330 during the application process; or

331 (V) The proposed charter school's educational program and  
332 financial management practices do not materially comply with the  
333 requirements of this section.

334

335 Material noncompliance is a failure to follow requirements or a  
336 violation of prohibitions applicable to charter school  
337 applications, which failure is quantitatively or qualitatively  
338 significant either individually or when aggregated with other  
339 noncompliance. An applicant is considered to be replicating a  
340 high-performing charter school if the proposed school is  
341 substantially similar to at least one of the applicant's high-  
342 performing charter schools and the organization or individuals  
343 involved in the establishment and operation of the proposed  
344 school are significantly involved in the operation of replicated  
345 schools.

346 c. If the sponsor denies or the commission recommends  
347 denial of an application submitted by a high-performing charter  
348 school or a high-performing charter school system, the sponsor

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349 or the commission, as applicable, must, within 10 calendar days  
350 after such denial, state in writing the specific reasons, based  
351 upon the criteria in sub-subparagraph b., supporting its denial  
352 of the application and must provide the letter of denial and  
353 supporting documentation to the applicant and to the Department  
354 of Education. The applicant may appeal the sponsor's denial or  
355 the commission's recommendation for denial of the application in  
356 accordance with paragraph (c).

357 5.a. A sponsor may provide input to the commission within  
358 30 days after receiving a copy of the final application  
359 submitted to the commission. The commission must consider such  
360 input in reviewing the application.

361 b. The commission must submit its recommendation for  
362 approval of a charter school application to the State Board of  
363 Education for approval.

364 c. The sponsor may appeal to the state board any  
365 recommendation to approve the application by the commission no  
366 later than 30 days from the commission's decision. Upon receipt  
367 of notification from the state board that a sponsor is filing an  
368 appeal, the commissioner shall review the appeal and make  
369 recommendations to the state board regarding its pending  
370 decision about the appeal. The commissioner shall report his or  
371 her recommendations to the state board at least 7 calendar days  
372 before the date on which the appeal is considered.

373 d. The state board by majority vote shall accept or reject  
374 the recommendation of the commission to approve the application  
375 no later than 90 calendar days after an appeal is filed in  
376 accordance with State Board of Education rule. The sponsor shall  
377 implement the decision of the state board. The decision of the

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378 state board is not subject to chapter 120.

379 6.4. For budget projection purposes, the sponsor or the  
380 commission, as applicable, shall report to the Department of  
381 Education the approval or denial of an application within 10  
382 calendar days after such approval or denial. In the event of  
383 approval by the sponsor or the state board, as applicable, the  
384 report to the Department of Education shall include the final  
385 projected FTE for the approved charter school.

386 7.5. Upon approval of an application, the initial startup  
387 shall commence with the beginning of the public school calendar  
388 for the district in which the charter is granted. A charter  
389 school may defer the opening of the school's operations for up  
390 to 3 years to provide time for adequate facility planning. The  
391 charter school must provide written notice of such intent to the  
392 sponsor and the parents of enrolled students at least 30  
393 calendar days before the first day of school.

394 (c)1. An applicant may appeal any denial of that  
395 applicant's application or failure to act on an application to  
396 the State Board of Education by the sponsor no later than 30  
397 calendar days after receipt of the sponsor's decision or failure  
398 to act and shall notify the sponsor of its appeal. Any response  
399 of the sponsor shall be submitted to the State Board of  
400 Education within 30 calendar days after notification of the  
401 appeal. Upon receipt of notification from the State Board of  
402 Education that a charter school applicant is filing an appeal,  
403 the Commissioner of Education shall convene a meeting of the  
404 Charter School ~~Appeal~~ Commission to study and make  
405 recommendations to the State Board of Education regarding its  
406 pending decision about the appeal. The commission shall forward

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407 its recommendation to the state board at least 7 calendar days  
408 before the date on which the appeal is to be heard.

409 2. An applicant may appeal any recommendation to deny that  
410 applicant's application or the failure to act on an application  
411 by the commission to the state board no later than 30 calendar  
412 days after receipt of the commission's decision or failure to  
413 act, and the applicant shall notify the commission of its  
414 appeal. The state board shall notify the commissioner of an  
415 applicant's appeal. Upon receipt of notification from the state  
416 board that a charter school applicant is filing an appeal of the  
417 commission's recommendation, the commissioner shall review the  
418 appeal and make recommendations to the state board regarding its  
419 pending decision regarding the appeal. The commissioner shall  
420 report his or her recommendation to the state board at least 7  
421 calendar days before the date on which the appeal is considered.

422 3.2. ~~The Charter School Appeal~~ commission or the  
423 commissioner may reject an appeal submission for failure to  
424 comply with procedural rules governing the appeals process. The  
425 rejection shall describe the submission errors. The appellant  
426 shall have 15 calendar days after notice of rejection in which  
427 to resubmit an appeal that meets the requirements set forth in  
428 State Board of Education rule. An appeal submitted subsequent to  
429 such rejection is considered timely if the original appeal was  
430 filed within 30 calendar days after receipt of notice of the  
431 specific reasons for the sponsor's or commission's denial of the  
432 charter application.

433 4.a.3.a. ~~The State Board of Education shall by majority~~  
434 ~~vote accept or reject the decision of the sponsor~~ or the  
435 commission no later than 90 calendar days after an appeal is

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436 filed in accordance with State Board of Education rule. The  
437 State Board of Education shall remand the application to the  
438 sponsor with its written decision that the sponsor approve or  
439 deny the application. The sponsor shall implement the decision  
440 of the State Board of Education. The decision of the State Board  
441 of Education is not subject to the provisions of the  
442 Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 120.

443 b. If an appeal concerns an application submitted by a  
444 high-performing charter school identified pursuant to s.  
445 1002.331 or a high-performing charter school system identified  
446 pursuant to s. 1002.332, the State Board of Education shall  
447 determine whether the sponsor's or the commission's denial was  
448 in accordance with sub-subparagraph (b)4.b. ~~sub-subparagraph~~  
449 ~~(b)3.b.~~

450 (d) The sponsor shall act upon the decision of the State  
451 Board of Education within 30 calendar days after it is received.  
452 The State Board of Education's decision is a final action  
453 subject to judicial review in the district court of appeal.

454 (e)1. The A Charter School Appeal commission is established  
455 to review applications submitted pursuant to subparagraph (b)1.  
456 and to assist the commissioner and the State Board of Education  
457 with a fair and impartial review of appeals by applicants whose  
458 charter applications have been denied, whose charter contracts  
459 have not been renewed, or whose charter contracts have been  
460 terminated by their sponsors.

461 2. The ~~Charter School Appeal~~ commission may receive copies  
462 of the appeal documents forwarded to the State Board of  
463 Education, review the documents, gather other applicable  
464 information regarding the appeal, and make a written

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465 recommendation to the commissioner. The recommendation must  
466 state whether the appeal should be upheld or denied and include  
467 the reasons for the recommendation being offered. The  
468 commissioner shall forward the recommendation to the State Board  
469 of Education no later than 7 calendar days prior to the date on  
470 which the appeal is to be heard. The state board must consider  
471 the commission's recommendation in making its decision, but is  
472 not bound by the recommendation. The decision of the ~~Charter~~  
473 ~~School Appeal~~ commission is not subject to the ~~provisions of the~~  
474 Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 120.

475 3. The commissioner shall appoint a number of members to  
476 the ~~Charter School Appeal~~ commission sufficient to ensure that  
477 no potential conflict of interest exists for any commission  
478 application review or appeal decision. Members shall serve  
479 without compensation but may be reimbursed for travel and per  
480 diem expenses in conjunction with their service. Of the members  
481 reviewing an application or hearing the appeal, one-half must  
482 represent currently operating charter schools and one-half must  
483 represent sponsors. The commissioner or a named designee shall  
484 chair the ~~Charter School Appeal~~ commission.

485 4. The chair shall convene meetings of the commission and  
486 shall ensure that the written recommendations are completed and  
487 forwarded in a timely manner. In cases in which ~~where~~ the  
488 commission cannot reach a decision, the chair shall make the  
489 written recommendation with justification, noting that the  
490 decision was rendered by the chair.

491 5. Commission members shall thoroughly review the materials  
492 presented to them from the applicant ~~appellant~~ and the sponsor.  
493 The commission may request information to clarify the

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494 documentation presented to it. In the course of its review, the  
495 commission may facilitate the postponement of an appeal in those  
496 cases where additional time and communication may negate the  
497 need for a formal appeal and both parties agree, in writing, to  
498 postpone the appeal to the State Board of Education. A new date  
499 certain for the appeal shall then be set based upon the rules  
500 and procedures of the State Board of Education. Commission  
501 members shall provide a written recommendation to the state  
502 board as to whether the appeal should be upheld or denied. A  
503 fact-based justification for the recommendation must be  
504 included. The chair must ensure that the written recommendation  
505 is submitted to the State Board of Education members no later  
506 than 7 calendar days prior to the date on which the appeal is to  
507 be heard. Both parties in the case shall also be provided a copy  
508 of the recommendation.

509 (f)1. The Department of Education shall provide or arrange  
510 for training and technical assistance to charter schools in  
511 developing and adjusting business plans and accounting for costs  
512 and income. Training and technical assistance shall also  
513 address, at a minimum, state and federal grant and student  
514 performance accountability reporting requirements and provide  
515 assistance in identifying and applying for the types and amounts  
516 of state and federal financial assistance the charter school may  
517 be eligible to receive. The department may provide other  
518 technical assistance to an applicant upon written request.

519 2. A charter school applicant must participate in the  
520 training provided by the Department of Education after approval  
521 of an application but at least 30 calendar days before the first  
522 day of classes at the charter school. However, a sponsor may

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523 require the charter school applicant to attend training provided  
524 by the sponsor in lieu of the department's training if the  
525 sponsor's training standards meet or exceed the standards  
526 developed by the department. In such case, the sponsor may not  
527 require the charter school applicant to attend the training  
528 within 30 calendar days before the first day of classes at the  
529 charter school. The training must include instruction in  
530 accurate financial planning and good business practices. If the  
531 applicant is a management company or a nonprofit organization,  
532 the charter school principal and the chief financial officer or  
533 his or her equivalent must also participate in the training. A  
534 sponsor may not require a high-performing charter school or  
535 high-performing charter school system applicant to participate  
536 in the training described in this subparagraph more than once.

537 (g) In considering charter applications for a lab school, a  
538 state university shall consult with the district school board of  
539 the county in which the lab school is located. The decision of a  
540 state university may be appealed pursuant to the procedure  
541 established in this subsection.

542 (9) CHARTER SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS.—

543 (r) If a sponsor chooses not to renew or to terminate a  
544 charter pursuant to paragraphs (8) (a) or (8) (c), or if a charter  
545 school voluntarily closes before the end of a school year or  
546 within 1 year after beginning operations, excluding charter  
547 schools that close due to consolidation with another charter  
548 school, the applicant for the charter, the charter school owner,  
549 president, superintendent, principal, charter school governing  
550 board members, and the relatives of such applicant, owner,  
551 president, superintendent, principal, or governing board member

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552 may not submit an application to open a charter school in this  
553 state pursuant to subsection (6) for a period of 5 years after  
554 the charter is not renewed or is terminated, or the charter  
555 school closes pursuant to this paragraph. If a charter school  
556 applicant, owner, president, superintendent, principal, or a  
557 member of a charter school governing board, a charter management  
558 organization, or an education management organization is  
559 convicted of a crime, including, but not limited to, fraud or  
560 financial offenses related to the operation of a charter school,  
561 such applicant, owner, president, superintendent, principal, or  
562 governing board member, including any relatives of such  
563 individuals, or the charter management organization or the  
564 education management organization, may not apply for a charter  
565 pursuant to subsection (6) or operate or manage a charter school  
566 in this state for a period of 10 years after such conviction.  
567 For the purpose of this paragraph, the term "relative" has the  
568 same meaning as specified under subparagraph (24) (a)2.

569 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.