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<u>Senate</u> <u>House</u>

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Representative Garcia offered the following:

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Amendment (with title amendment)

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Remove lines 204-395 and insert:

5 6 Section 2. Subsection (7), paragraphs (a) and (e) of subsection (10), and paragraph (b) of subsection (17) of section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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1002.33 Charter schools.-

10 11 a charter school, including a virtual charter school, shall be set forth by the sponsor and the applicant in a written

(7) CHARTER.—The terms and conditions for the operation of

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contractual agreement, called a charter. The sponsor and the

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governing board of the charter school or virtual charter school

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shall use the standard charter contract or standard virtual charter contract, respectively, pursuant to subsection (21), which shall incorporate the approved application and any addenda approved with the application. Any term or condition of a proposed charter contract or proposed virtual charter contract that differs from the standard charter or virtual charter contract adopted by rule of the State Board of Education shall be presumed a limitation on charter school flexibility. The sponsor may not impose unreasonable rules or regulations that violate the intent of giving charter schools greater flexibility to meet educational goals. Limitations on student enrollment which are less than the documented facility capacity are unreasonable and may not be imposed. The charter shall be signed by the governing board of the charter school and the sponsor, following a public hearing to ensure community input.

- (a) The charter shall address and criteria for approval of the charter shall be based on:
- 1. The school's mission, the types of students to be served, and, for a virtual charter school, the types of students the school intends to serve who reside outside of the sponsoring school district, and the ages and grades to be included.
- 2. The focus of the curriculum, the instructional methods to be used, any distinctive instructional techniques to be employed, and identification and acquisition of appropriate technologies needed to improve educational and administrative

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performance which include a means for promoting safe, ethical, and appropriate uses of technology which comply with legal and professional standards.

- a. The charter shall ensure that reading is a primary focus of the curriculum and that resources are provided to identify and provide specialized instruction for students who are reading below grade level. The curriculum and instructional strategies for reading must be consistent with the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and grounded in scientifically based reading research.
- b. In order to provide students with access to diverse instructional delivery models, to facilitate the integration of technology within traditional classroom instruction, and to provide students with the skills they need to compete in the 21st century economy, the Legislature encourages instructional methods for blended learning courses consisting of both traditional classroom and online instructional techniques. Charter schools may implement blended learning courses which combine traditional classroom instruction and virtual instruction. Students in a blended learning course must be full-time students of the charter school pursuant to s. 1011.61(1)(a)1. Instructional personnel certified pursuant to s. 1012.55 who provide virtual instruction for blended learning courses may be employees of the charter school or may be under contract to provide instructional services to charter school

students. At a minimum, such instructional personnel must hold an active state or school district adjunct certification under s. 1012.57 for the subject area of the blended learning course. The funding and performance accountability requirements for blended learning courses are the same as those for traditional courses.

- 3. The current incoming baseline standard of student academic achievement, the outcomes to be achieved, and the method of measurement that will be used. The criteria listed in this subparagraph shall include a detailed description of:
- a. How the baseline student academic achievement levels and prior rates of academic progress will be established.
- b. How these baseline rates will be compared to rates of academic progress achieved by these same students while attending the charter school.
- c. To the extent possible, how these rates of progress will be evaluated and compared with rates of progress of other closely comparable student populations.

A district school board is required to provide academic student performance data to charter schools for each of their students coming from the district school system, as well as rates of academic progress of comparable student populations in the district school system.

- 4. The methods used to identify the educational strengths and needs of students and how well educational goals and performance standards are met by students attending the charter school. The methods shall provide a means for the charter school to ensure accountability to its constituents by analyzing student performance data and by evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of its major educational programs. Students in charter schools shall, at a minimum, participate in the statewide assessment program created under s. 1008.22.
- 5. In secondary charter schools, a method for determining that a student has satisfied the requirements for graduation in s. 1002.3105(5), s. 1003.4281, or s. 1003.4282.
- 6. A method for resolving conflicts between the governing board of the charter school and the sponsor.
- 7. The admissions procedures and dismissal procedures, including the school's code of student conduct. Admission or dismissal must not be based on a student's academic performance, except as authorized under subparagraph (10)(e)5.
- 8. The ways by which the school will achieve a racial/ethnic balance reflective of the community it serves or within the racial/ethnic range of other nearby public schools or school districts.
- 9. The financial and administrative management of the school, including a reasonable demonstration of the professional experience or competence of those individuals or organizations

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applying to operate the charter school or those hired or retained to perform such professional services and the description of clearly delineated responsibilities and the policies and practices needed to effectively manage the charter school. A description of internal audit procedures and establishment of controls to ensure that financial resources are properly managed must be included. Both public sector and private sector professional experience shall be equally valid in such a consideration.

- 10. The asset and liability projections required in the application which are incorporated into the charter and shall be compared with information provided in the annual report of the charter school.
- 11. A description of procedures that identify various risks and provide for a comprehensive approach to reduce the impact of losses; plans to ensure the safety and security of students and staff; plans to identify, minimize, and protect others from violent or disruptive student behavior; and the manner in which the school will be insured, including whether or not the school will be required to have liability insurance, and, if so, the terms and conditions thereof and the amounts of coverage.
- 12. The term of the charter which shall provide for cancellation of the charter if insufficient progress has been made in attaining the student achievement objectives of the

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charter and if it is not likely that such objectives can be achieved before expiration of the charter. The initial term of a charter shall be for 5 years, excluding 2 planning years. In order to facilitate access to long-term financial resources for charter school construction, charter schools that are operated by a municipality or other public entity as provided by law are eligible for up to a 15-year charter, subject to approval by the sponsor. A charter lab school is eligible for a charter for a term of up to 15 years. In addition, to facilitate access to long-term financial resources for charter school construction, charter schools that are operated by a private, not-for-profit, s. 501(c)(3) status corporation are eliqible for up to a 15-year charter, subject to approval by the sponsor. Such long-term charters remain subject to annual review and may be terminated during the term of the charter, but only according to the provisions set forth in subsection (8).

13. The facilities to be used and their location. The sponsor may not require a charter school to have a certificate of occupancy or a temporary certificate of occupancy for such a facility earlier than 15 calendar days before the first day of school. A charter school is authorized to increase its student enrollment to more than the capacity identified in the charter, but student enrollment may not exceed the capacity of the facility at the time the enrollment increase will take effect. Facility capacity for purposes of expansion shall include any

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163	improvements to an existing facility or any new facility in
164	which the students of the charter school will enroll. The
165	sponsor may not require facility capacity documentation earlier
166	than 15 calendar days before the first day of school. The
167	sponsor may not impose a limitation to the charter school's
168	student enrollment which is less than the facility capacity.

- 14. The qualifications to be required of the teachers and the potential strategies used to recruit, hire, train, and retain qualified staff to achieve best value.
- The governance structure of the school, including the status of the charter school as a public or private employer as required in paragraph (12)(i).
- 16. A timetable for implementing the charter which addresses the implementation of each element thereof and the date by which the charter shall be awarded in order to meet this timetable.
- 17. In the case of an existing public school that is being converted to charter status, alternative arrangements for current students who choose not to attend the charter school and for current teachers who choose not to teach in the charter school after conversion in accordance with the existing collective bargaining agreement or district school board rule in the absence of a collective bargaining agreement. However, alternative arrangements shall not be required for current teachers who choose not to teach in a charter lab school, except

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as authorized by the employment policies of the state university which grants the charter to the lab school.

- employed by the charter school who are related to the charter school owner, president, chairperson of the governing board of directors, superintendent, governing board member, principal, assistant principal, or any other person employed by the charter school who has equivalent decisionmaking authority. For the purpose of this subparagraph, the term "relative" means father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, or half sister.
- 19. Implementation of the activities authorized under s. 1002.331 by the charter school when it satisfies the eligibility requirements for a high-performing charter school. A high-performing charter school shall notify its sponsor in writing by March 1 if it intends to increase enrollment or expand grade levels the following school year. The written notice shall specify the amount of the enrollment increase and the grade levels that will be added, as applicable.
- (b) The sponsor has 30 days after approval of the application to provide an initial proposed charter contract to the charter school. The applicant and the sponsor have 40 days

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thereafter to negotiate and notice the charter contract for
final approval by the sponsor unless both parties agree to an
extension. The proposed charter contract shall be provided to
the charter school at least 7 calendar days before the date of
the meeting at which the charter is scheduled to be voted upon
by the sponsor. The Department of Education shall provide
mediation services for any dispute regarding this section
subsequent to the approval of a charter application and for any
dispute relating to the approved charter, except a dispute
regarding a charter school application denial. If either the
charter school or the sponsor indicates in writing that the
party does not desire to settle any dispute arising under this
section through mediation procedures offered by the Department
of Education, a charter school may immediately appeal any formal
or informal decision by the sponsor to an administrative law
judge appointed by the Division of Administrative Hearings. If
the Commissioner of Education determines that the dispute cannot
be settled through mediation, the dispute may also be appealed
to an administrative law judge appointed by the Division of
Administrative Hearings. The administrative law judge has final
order authority to rule on issues of equitable treatment of the
charter school as a public school, whether proposed provisions
of the charter violate the intended flexibility granted charter
schools by statute, or any other matter regarding this section,
except a dispute regarding charter school application denial, a

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charter termination, or a charter nonrenewal. The administrative law judge shall award the prevailing party reasonable attorney fees and costs incurred during the mediation process, administrative proceeding, and any appeals, to be paid by the party against whom the administrative law judge rules.

- (c)1. A charter may be renewed provided that a program review demonstrates that the criteria in paragraph (a) have been successfully accomplished and that none of the grounds for nonrenewal established by paragraph (8)(a) have been expressly found. The charter of a charter school that meets these requirements and has received a school grade lower than a "B" pursuant to s. 1008.34 in the most recently graded school year must be renewed for no less than a 5-year term except as provided in paragraph (9)(n). In order to facilitate long-term financing for charter school construction, charter schools operating for a minimum of 3 years and demonstrating exemplary academic programming and fiscal management are eligible for a 15-year charter renewal. Such long-term charter is subject to annual review and may be terminated during the term of the charter.
- 2. The 15-year charter renewal that may be granted pursuant to subparagraph 1. must be granted to a charter school that has received a school grade of "A" or "B" pursuant to s. 1008.34 in the most recently graded school year and that is not in a state of financial emergency or deficit position as defined

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by this section. Such long-term charter is subject to annual review and may be terminated during the term of the charter pursuant to subsection (8).

- A charter may be modified during its term upon the recommendation of the sponsor or the charter school's governing board and the approval of both parties to the agreement. Changes to curriculum which are consistent with state standards are shall be deemed approved unless the sponsor and the Department of Education determine in writing that the curriculum is inconsistent with state standards. Modification during any term may include, but is not limited to, consolidation of multiple charters into a single charter if the charters are operated under the same governing board, regardless of the renewal cycle. A charter school may assign its charter to a high-performing charter school operating in the same district. A charter school that is not subject to a school improvement plan and that closes as part of a consolidation shall be reported by the sponsor as a consolidation. A request for consolidation of multiple charters must be approved or denied within 60 days after the submission of the request. If the request is denied, the sponsor shall notify the charter school's governing board of the denial and provide the specific reasons, in reasonable detail, for the denial of the request for consolidation within 10 days.
- (e) A charter may be terminated by a charter school's governing board through voluntary closure. The decision to cease

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operations must be determined at a public meeting. The governing board shall notify the parents and sponsor of the public meeting in writing before the public meeting. The governing board must notify the sponsor, parents of enrolled students, and the department in writing within 24 hours after the public meeting of its determination. The notice shall state the charter school's intent to continue operations or the reason for the closure and acknowledge that the governing board agrees to follow the procedures for dissolution and reversion of public funds pursuant to paragraphs (8) (d) - (f) and (9) (o).

- (f) A charter may include a provision requiring the charter school to be held responsible for all costs associated with, but not limited to, mediation, damages, and attorney fees incurred by the district in connection with complaints to the Office of Civil Rights or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.
 - (10) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.-
- (d) A charter school may give enrollment preference to the following student populations:
- 1. Students who are siblings of a student enrolled in the charter school.
- 2. Students who are the children of a member of the governing board of the charter school.
- 3. Students who are the children of an employee of the charter school.

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- 313 4. Students who are the children of:
 - a. An employee of the business partner of a charter school-in-the-workplace established under paragraph (15)(b) or a resident of the municipality in which such charter school is located; or
 - b. A resident or employee of a municipality that operates a charter school-in-a-municipality pursuant to paragraph (15)(c) or allows a charter school to use a school facility or portion of land provided by the municipality for the operation of the charter school.
 - 5. Students who have successfully completed, during the previous year, a voluntary prekindergarten education program under ss. 1002.51-1002.79 provided by the charter school, the charter school's governing board, or a voluntary prekindergarten provider that has a written agreement with the governing board.
 - 6. Students who are the children of an active duty member of any branch of the United States Armed Forces.
 - 7. Students who attended or are assigned to failing schools pursuant to s. 1002.38(2).
 - 8. Students who have successfully completed, during the previous year, a prekindergarten education program under ss.

 402.3025 provided by a high-performing charter school or a high-performing charter school system, or a prekindergarten education provider that has a written agreement with the high-performing charter school or high-performing charter school system.

- (e) A charter school may limit the enrollment process only to target the following student populations:
 - 1. Students within specific age groups or grade levels.
 - 2. Students considered at risk of dropping out of school or academic failure. Such students shall include exceptional education students.
 - 3. Students enrolling in a charter school-in-the-workplace or charter school-in-a-municipality established pursuant to subsection (15).
 - 4. Students residing within a reasonable distance of the charter school, as described in paragraph (20)(c). Such students shall be subject to a random lottery and to the racial/ethnic balance provisions described in subparagraph (7)(a)8. or any federal provisions that require a school to achieve a racial/ethnic balance reflective of the community it serves or within the racial/ethnic range of other nearby public schools.
 - 5. Students who meet reasonable academic, artistic, or other eligibility standards established by the charter school and included in the charter school application and charter or, in the case of existing charter schools, standards that are consistent with the school's mission and purpose. Such standards shall be in accordance with current state law and practice in public schools and may not discriminate against otherwise qualified individuals.

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- 6. Students articulating from one charter school to another pursuant to an articulation agreement between the charter schools that has been approved by the sponsor.
- Students living in a development, or students whose parent or legal quardian maintains physical or permanent employment within a development, in which a developer, including any affiliated business entity or charitable foundation, contributes to the formation, acquisition, construction, or operation of one or more charter schools or charter school facilities and related property in an amount equal to or having a total appraised value of at least \$5 million to be used as charter schools to mitigate the educational impact created by the development of new residential dwelling units. Students living in the development are entitled to 50 percent of the student stations in the charter schools. The students who are eligible for enrollment are subject to a random lottery, the racial/ethnic balance provisions, or any federal provisions, as described in subparagraph 4. The remainder of the student stations must be filled in accordance with subparagraph 4.
- 8. Students whose parent is employed within a reasonable distance of the charter school, as described in paragraph (20)(c).
- (17) FUNDING.—Students enrolled in a charter school, regardless of the sponsorship, shall be funded as if they are in a basic program or a special program, the same as students

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387 enrolled in other public schools in a school district. Funding 388 for a charter lab school shall be as provided in s. 1002.32. 389 (b)1. The basis for the agreement for funding students 390 enrolled in a charter school shall be the sum of the school 391 district's operating funds from the Florida Education Finance 392 Program as provided in s. 1011.62 and the General Appropriations 393 Act, including gross state and local funds, discretionary 394 lottery funds, and funds from the school district's current 395 operating discretionary millage levy; divided by total funded 396 weighted full-time equivalent students in the school district; 397 and multiplied by the weighted full-time equivalent students for 398 the charter school. Charter schools whose students or programs 399 meet the eligibility criteria in law are entitled to their 400 proportionate share of categorical program funds included in the 401 total funds available in the Florida Education Finance Program 402 by the Legislature, including transportation, and the evidence-403 based reading allocation. Total funding for each charter school shall be recalculated during the year to reflect the revised 404 405 calculations under the Florida Education Finance Program by the 406 state and the actual weighted full-time equivalent students reported by the charter school during the full-time equivalent 407 student survey periods designated by the Commissioner of 408 409 Education. For charter schools operated by a not-for-profit or 410 municipal entity, any unrestricted current and capital assets identified in the charter school's annual financial audit may be 411

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used for other charter schools operated by the not-for-profit or municipal entity within the school district. For charter schools operated by a not-for-profit or municipal entity, any unrestricted current and capital assets may be used for other charter schools operated by the not-for-profit or municipal entity and located outside of the originating charter school's school district, but within the state, through an unforgiveable loan which must be repaid to the originating charter school by the receiving charter school. Unrestricted current assets shall be used in accordance with s. 1011.62, and any unrestricted capital assets shall be used in accordance with s. 1013.62(2).

2.a. Students enrolled in a charter school sponsored by a state university or Florida College System institution pursuant to paragraph (5)(a) shall be funded as if they are in a basic program or a special program in the school district. The basis for funding these students is the sum of the total operating funds from the Florida Education Finance Program for the school district in which the school is located as provided in s. 1011.62 and the General Appropriations Act, including gross state and local funds, discretionary lottery funds, and funds from each school district's current operating discretionary millage levy, divided by total funded weighted full-time equivalent students in the district, and multiplied by the full-time equivalent membership of the charter school. The Department of Education shall develop a tool that each state university or

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Florida College System institution sponsoring a charter school shall use for purposes of calculating the funding amount for each eligible charter school student. The total amount obtained from the calculation must be appropriated from state funds in the General Appropriations Act to the charter school.

- b. Capital outlay funding for a charter school sponsored by a state university or Florida College System institution pursuant to paragraph (5)(a) is determined pursuant to s. 1013.62 and the General Appropriations Act.
- Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 1002.331, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1002.331 High-performing charter schools.-

- (2) A high-performing charter school is authorized to:
- (a) Increase its student enrollment once per school year to more than the capacity identified in the charter, but student enrollment may not exceed the capacity of the facility at the time the enrollment increase will take effect. Facility capacity for purposes of expansion <u>must shall</u> include any improvements to an existing facility or any new facility in which the students of the high-performing charter school will enroll.
- (b) Expand grade levels within kindergarten through grade 12 to add grade levels not already served if any annual enrollment increase resulting from grade level expansion is within the limit established in paragraph (a).

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- (c) Submit a quarterly, rather than a monthly, financial statement to the sponsor pursuant to s. 1002.33(9)(q).
- (d) Consolidate under a single charter the charters of multiple high-performing charter schools operated in the same school district by the charter schools' governing board regardless of the renewal cycle.
- (e) Receive a modification of its charter to a term of 15 years or a 15-year charter renewal. The charter may be modified or renewed for a shorter term at the option of the high-performing charter school. The charter must be consistent with s. 1002.33(7)(a)19. and (10)(h) and (i), is subject to annual review by the sponsor, and may be terminated during its term pursuant to s. 1002.33(8).
- (f) Assume the charter of another operator within the same school district in which it operates.

A high-performing charter school shall notify its sponsor in writing by March 1 if it intends to increase enrollment or expand grade levels the following school year. The written notice shall specify the amount of the enrollment increase and the grade levels that will be added, as applicable. If a charter school notifies the sponsor of its intent to expand, the sponsor shall modify the charter within 90 days to include the new enrollment maximum and may not make any other changes. The sponsor may deny a request to increase the enrollment of a high-

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performing charter school if the commissioner has declassified the charter school as high-performing. If a high-performing charter school requests to consolidate multiple charters or assume an existing charter, the sponsor has shall have 40 days after receipt of that request to provide an initial draft charter to the charter school. The sponsor and charter school shall have 50 days thereafter to negotiate and notice the charter contract for final approval by the sponsor.

TITLE AMENDMENT

Remove line 11 and insert:

dismissal procedures for charter schools; revising provisions relating to student enrollment; authorizing a charter school to assign its charter to a high-performing charter school in the same district; authorizing the transfer of specified assets to certain charter schools within the state; providing requirements for such transfers; amending s. 1002.331, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; amending s.