

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to conversion charter schools;
 3 amending s. 1002.33, F.S.; revising the requirements
 4 for an application for a conversion charter school;
 5 authorizing municipalities to apply for the conversion
 6 of specified public schools to charter schools;
 7 authorizing the Charter School Review Commission to
 8 solicit and review applications for conversion charter
 9 schools; providing an effective date.

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

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 13 Section 1. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (3) of
 14 section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, and paragraph (b) of
 15 subsection (3) and paragraph (a) of subsection (5) of that
 16 section are amended, to read:

17 1002.33 Charter schools.—

18 (3) APPLICATION FOR CHARTER STATUS.—

19 (b) An application for a conversion charter school shall
 20 be made by a municipality, the district school board, the
 21 principal, teachers, parents, and/or the school advisory council
 22 at an existing public school that has been in operation for at
 23 least 2 years prior to the application to convert. A public
 24 school-within-a-school that is designated as a school by the
 25 district school board may also submit an application to convert

26 | to charter status. An application submitted proposing to convert
27 | an existing public school to a charter school shall demonstrate
28 | the support of at least ~~50 percent of the teachers employed at~~
29 | ~~the school and~~ 50 percent of the parents voting whose children
30 | are enrolled at the school, provided that a majority of the
31 | parents eligible to vote participate in the ballot process,
32 | according to rules adopted by the State Board of Education. The
33 | Charter School Review Commission or a district school board
34 | denying an application for a conversion charter school shall
35 | provide notice of denial to the applicants in writing within 10
36 | days after the meeting at which the commission or district
37 | school board denied the application. The notice must articulate
38 | in writing the specific reasons for denial and must provide
39 | documentation supporting those reasons. A private school,
40 | parochial school, or home education program shall not be
41 | eligible for charter school status.

42 | (c) A municipality may submit an application for
43 | conversion for any or all of the public schools within its
44 | jurisdictional boundary as part of a single application for
45 | approval.

46 | (5) SPONSOR; DUTIES.—

47 | (a) Sponsoring entities.—

48 | 1. A district school board may sponsor a charter school in
49 | the county over which the district school board has
50 | jurisdiction.

51 2. A state university may grant a charter to a lab school
52 created under s. 1002.32 and shall be considered to be the
53 school's sponsor. Such school shall be considered a charter lab
54 school.

55 3. Because needs relating to educational capacity,
56 workforce qualifications, and career education opportunities are
57 constantly changing and extend beyond school district
58 boundaries:

59 a. A state university may, upon approval by the Department
60 of Education, solicit applications and sponsor a charter school
61 to meet regional education or workforce demands by serving
62 students from multiple school districts.

63 b. A Florida College System institution may, upon approval
64 by the Department of Education, solicit applications and sponsor
65 a charter school in any county within its service area to meet
66 workforce demands and may offer postsecondary programs leading
67 to industry certifications to eligible charter school students.
68 A charter school established under subparagraph (b)4. may not be
69 sponsored by a Florida College System institution until its
70 existing charter with the school district expires as provided
71 under subsection (7).

72 c. Notwithstanding paragraph (6)(b), a state university or
73 Florida College System institution may, at its discretion, deny
74 an application for a charter school.

75 d. The Charter School Review Commission, as authorized

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76 | under s. 1002.3301, may solicit and review applications for
77 | conversion charter schools and charter schools overseen by
78 | district school boards and, upon the commission approving an
79 | application, the district school board that oversees the school
80 | district in which the charter school will be located shall serve
81 | as sponsor.

82 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.