

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to education; amending s. 1002.33,
3 F.S.; revising which persons or entities may apply for
4 a conversion charter school; authorizing a
5 municipality to apply for a job engine charter under
6 certain conditions; providing the purpose of a job
7 engine charter school; providing requirements for the
8 charter of a job engine charter school; amending s.
9 1013.15, F.S.; requiring a school board to submit a 5-
10 year plan to the Department of Education before
11 occupying purchased or acquired real property;
12 requiring that the plan be updated and submitted to
13 the department annually; prohibiting a school board
14 from purchasing or acquiring real property if
15 enrollment in the school district has declined in the
16 preceding 5-year period; requiring a school board to
17 dispose of real property, deemed by the State Board of
18 Education to be surplus; requiring that surplus real
19 property be given priority for conversion for
20 specified purposes; requiring the State Board of
21 Education to adopt rules and procedures; providing an
22 effective date.

23
24 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
25

26 **Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3) and paragraph**
27 **(c) of subsection (15) of section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, are**
28 **amended to read:**

29 1002.33 Charter schools.—

30 (3) APPLICATION FOR CHARTER STATUS.—

31 (b) An application for a conversion charter school must
32 ~~shall be made by the district school board, the principal,~~
33 ~~teachers, parents whose children are enrolled, and/or the school~~
34 ~~advisory council~~ at an existing public school that has been in
35 operation for at least 2 years before ~~prior to~~ the application
36 to convert. A public school-within-a-school ~~that is~~ designated
37 as a school by the district school board may also apply ~~submit~~
38 ~~an application~~ to convert to charter status. An application
39 submitted proposing to convert an existing public school to a
40 charter school must ~~shall~~ demonstrate the support of at least 50
41 ~~percent of the teachers employed at the school and~~ 50 percent of
42 the parents ~~voting~~ whose children are enrolled at the school
43 voting, provided that a majority of the parents eligible to vote
44 participate in the ballot process, according to rules adopted by
45 the State Board of Education. A district school board denying an
46 application for a conversion charter school shall provide notice
47 of denial to the applicants in writing within 10 days after the
48 meeting at which the district school board denied the
49 application. The notice must articulate in writing the specific
50 reasons for denial and must provide documentation supporting

51 those reasons. A private school, parochial school, or home
52 education program is ~~shall~~ not ~~be~~ eligible for charter school
53 status.

54 (15) CHARTER SCHOOLS-IN-THE-WORKPLACE; CHARTER SCHOOLS-IN-
55 A-MUNICIPALITY.—

56 (c)1. A charter school-in-a-municipality designation may
57 be granted to a municipality that possesses a charter; enrolls
58 students based upon a random lottery that involves all of the
59 children of the residents of that municipality who are seeking
60 enrollment, as provided for in subsection (10); and enrolls
61 students according to the racial/ethnic balance provisions
62 described in subparagraph (7)(a)8. When a municipality has
63 submitted charter applications for the establishment of a
64 charter school feeder pattern, consisting of elementary, middle,
65 and senior high schools, and each individual charter application
66 is approved by the sponsor, such schools must ~~shall then~~ be
67 designated as one charter school for all purposes listed
68 pursuant to this section. Any portion of the land and facility
69 used for a public charter school is ~~shall be~~ exempt from ad
70 valorem taxes, as provided for in s. 1013.54, for the duration
71 of its use as a public school.

72 2. A municipality located in a school district that has
73 received a grade below an "A" from the department pursuant to s.
74 1008.34(5) for 5 consecutive years may seek a charter under
75 subparagraph 1. If granted, such a charter may be designated a

76 "job engine charter." The purpose of a job engine charter school
77 is to attract job-producing entities to the municipality. The
78 charter must require the municipality to:

79 a. Provide an annual report to the sponsor which will be
80 made publicly available and include investments made to attract
81 and maintain job-producing entities, such as private-sector
82 industries, in the municipality.

83 b. Include the provision of exceptional student education
84 administration services, pursuant to subparagraph (20)(a)1.

85 c. Require the use of sufficient security technology to
86 ensure a secure facility.

87 d. Prohibit students who transfer to a job engine charter
88 school from participating in a high school athletic competition
89 during their first year of enrollment.

90 e. Notwithstanding paragraph (8)(e), accept responsibility
91 for all debts incurred by the job engine charter school.

92 **Section 2. Subsection (5) is added to section 1013.15,**
93 **Florida Statutes, to read:**

94 1013.15 Lease, rental, and lease-purchase of educational
95 plants, ancillary plants, and auxiliary facilities and sites.—

96 (5) Before occupying purchased or acquired real property,
97 a school board shall, in a public meeting, submit a 5-year plan
98 for the proposed use of the real property, taking into
99 consideration enrollment growth, demographic shifts, and changes
100 in curriculum. The plan must be updated and submitted to the

101 Department of Education annually.

102 (a) A school board is prohibited from purchasing or
103 acquiring real property, if enrollment in the school district
104 has declined in the preceding 5-year period. If such a decline
105 has occurred, a school board must dispose of real property,
106 deemed by the State Board of Education to be surplus.

107 (b) Surplus real property must be given priority for
108 conversion to affordable housing for teachers, first responders,
109 or military servicemembers; charter school facilities; or the
110 use of a local government for the development of a recreational
111 facility.

112 (c) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and
113 procedures to implement this subsection.

114 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.