

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 requirements for the
7 charter of a job engine charter school; prohibiting
8 school districts from charging specified fees for a
9 conversion school; requiring specified property to
10 remain at a conversion school; providing an effective
11 date.

12
13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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15 **Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (3), paragraph (c)**
16 **of subsection (15), and paragraph (e) of subsection (18) of**
17 **section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

18 1002.33 Charter schools.—

19 (3) APPLICATION FOR CHARTER STATUS.—

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

26 as a school by the district school board or a municipality
27 seeking to attract job-producing entities pursuant to paragraph
28 (15) (c) may also apply ~~submit an application~~ to convert to
29 charter status. An application submitted proposing to convert an
30 existing public school to a charter school must ~~shall~~
31 demonstrate the support of at least ~~50 percent of the teachers~~
32 ~~employed at the school and~~ 50 percent of the parents ~~voting~~
33 whose children are enrolled at the school who are voting,
34 provided that a majority of the parents eligible to vote
35 participate in the ballot process, according to rules adopted by
36 the State Board of Education. A district school board denying an
37 application for a conversion charter school shall provide notice
38 of denial to the applicants in writing within 10 days after the
39 meeting at which the district school board denied the
40 application. The notice must articulate in writing the specific
41 reasons for denial and must provide documentation supporting
42 those reasons. A private school, parochial school, or home
43 education program is ~~shall~~ not be eligible for charter school
44 status.

45 (15) CHARTER SCHOOLS-IN-THE-WORKPLACE; CHARTER SCHOOLS-IN-
46 A-MUNICIPALITY.—

47 (c)1. A charter school-in-a-municipality designation may
48 be granted to a municipality that possesses a charter; enrolls
49 students based upon a random lottery that involves all of the
50 children of the residents of that municipality who are seeking

51 enrollment, as provided for in subsection (10); and enrolls
52 students according to the racial/ethnic balance provisions
53 described in subparagraph (7)(a)8. When a municipality has
54 submitted charter applications for the establishment of a
55 charter school feeder pattern, consisting of elementary, middle,
56 and senior high schools, and each individual charter application
57 is approved by the sponsor, such schools must ~~shall then~~ be
58 designated as one charter school for all purposes listed
59 pursuant to this section. Any portion of the land and facility
60 used for a public charter school is ~~shall be~~ exempt from ad
61 valorem taxes, as provided for in s. 1013.54, for the duration
62 of its use as a public school.

63 2. If a school within the jurisdiction of a municipality
64 has earned a grade below an "A" for 5 consecutive years, the
65 municipality may apply to convert the public school to charter
66 status pursuant to paragraph (3)(b) to attract job-producing
67 entities to the municipality. If granted, the conversion charter
68 school shall be designated as a "job engine charter school". The
69 job engine charter school must annually report on the
70 investments made to attract and maintain job-producing entities,
71 such as private sector industries, in the municipality.

72 (18) FACILITIES.—

73 (e) If a district school board facility or property is
74 available because it is surplus, marked for disposal, or
75 otherwise unused, it shall be provided for a charter school's

76 use on the same basis as it is made available to other public
77 schools in the district. A charter school receiving property
78 from the sponsor may not sell or dispose of such property
79 without written permission of the sponsor. Similarly, for an
80 existing public school converting to charter status, a district
81 school board may not charge ~~no~~ rental or leasing fees ~~fee~~ for
82 the existing facility or for the property normally inventoried
83 to the conversion school ~~may be charged by the district school~~
84 ~~board~~ to the parents or municipality ~~and teachers~~ organizing the
85 charter school. Property normally inventoried to the school may
86 not be removed. The charter school shall agree to reasonable
87 maintenance provisions in order to maintain the facility in a
88 manner similar to district school board standards. The Public
89 Education Capital Outlay maintenance funds or any other
90 maintenance funds generated by the facility operated as a
91 conversion school shall remain with the conversion school.

92 **Section 2.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.