

By Senator Gaetz

1-00571B-25

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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; providing requirements for a job  
8       engine charter; amending s. 1013.15, F.S.; requiring a  
9       school board to submit a 5-year plan to the Department  
10      of Education before occupying purchased or acquired  
11      real property; requiring that the plan be updated and  
12      submitted to the department annually; prohibiting a  
13      school board from purchasing or acquiring real  
14      property if enrollment in the school district has  
15      declined in the preceding 5-year period; requiring a  
16      school board to dispose of real property, deemed by  
17      the State Board of Education to be surplus; requiring  
18      that surplus real property be given priority for  
19      conversion for specified purposes; requiring the State  
20      Board of Education to adopt rules and procedures;  
21      providing an effective date.

22  
23   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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

28       1002.33 Charter schools.—

29       (3) APPLICATION FOR CHARTER STATUS.—

1-00571B-25

2025140\_\_

30 (b) An application for a conversion charter school must  
31 ~~shall be made by the district school board, the principal,~~  
32 ~~teachers, parents whose children are enrolled, and/or the school~~  
33 ~~advisory council~~ at an existing public school that has been in  
34 operation for at least 2 years before ~~prior to~~ the application  
35 to convert. A public school-within-a-school ~~that is~~ designated  
36 as a school by the district school board may also apply ~~submit~~  
37 ~~an application~~ to convert to charter status. An application  
38 submitted proposing to convert an existing public school to a  
39 charter school must ~~shall~~ demonstrate the support of at least 50  
40 ~~percent of the teachers employed at the school and~~ 50 percent of  
41 the parents ~~voting~~ whose children are enrolled at the school  
42 voting, provided that a majority of the parents eligible to vote  
43 participate in the ballot process, according to rules adopted by  
44 the State Board of Education. A district school board denying an  
45 application for a conversion charter school shall provide notice  
46 of denial to the applicants in writing within 10 days after the  
47 meeting at which the district school board denied the  
48 application. The notice must articulate in writing the specific  
49 reasons for denial and must provide documentation supporting  
50 those reasons. A private school, parochial school, or home  
51 education program is ~~shall~~ not be eligible for charter school  
52 status.

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

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

1-00571B-25

2025140\_\_

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

71 2. A municipality located in a school district that has  
72 received a grade below an "A" from the department pursuant to s.  
73 1008.34(5) for 5 consecutive years may seek a charter under  
74 subparagraph 1. If granted, such a charter may be designated a  
75 "job engine charter." The purpose of a job engine charter school  
76 is to attract job-producing entities to the municipality. The  
77 charter must require the municipality to:

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

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

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

86 d. Prohibit students who transfer to a job engine charter  
87 school from participating in a high school athletic competition

1-00571B-25

2025140\_\_

88 during their first year of enrollment.

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

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

93 1013.15 Lease, rental, and lease-purchase of educational  
94 plants, ancillary plants, and auxiliary facilities and sites.—

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

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

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

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

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