



House Bill 2153-A: Charter Schools

Focusing charter school proposals based on district needs.

The first primary focus of HB 2153-A is to allow districts that have reached a certain threshold of charter school capacity in their district to bring about greater focus to charter school applications and to provide greater relevance of charter schools to a school district's main educational goals.

- If, in any given year, a district has more than 3% of its students in local charter schools and 3 or more operating charter schools, that district may amend its application process to consider only proposals that specifically address one or more local board adopted educational goals.
- Under this alternative application process, a district is not required to evaluate each application individually on its own merits but may instead evaluate all applications together and select those, if any, that best meet the board-adopted goals. This allows for more of a competitive review process of applications meeting the goals defined by the district.
- Any district choosing to 'opt-in' to this alternative application process must proactively do so by adopting specific academic goals every 2 years; said goals are required to be reported to the State Board of Education upon adoption.

What HB 2153-A DOES NOT do:

- The measure does not require a district to utilize this alternative application process. While this alternate application process may only be implemented in the case where a district has more than 3% of its students in charter schools and 3 or more operating charter schools, it is not mandatory.
- The measure does not implement a 3% enrollment cap for charter schools. The 3% used in the legislation is merely a triggering threshold for the new alternative application process and has no controlling authority over actual charter school enrollment.
- The measure does not allow districts to completely opt out of charter school application reviews; it merely allows them to bring greater focus to the applications that are being brought forward.
- The measure does not affect existing charter schools at all; it does not require existing charter schools to comply with this new process either currently or upon renewal. Existing charter schools, and any charter schools approved outside of this alternative application process would continue to operate as is and under their existing agreements with school districts.

Renewal of state-sponsored charter schools by local districts.

A secondary component HB 2153-A creates a process and opportunity for state-sponsored charter schools to seek and gain approval for renewal from their local, resident school district.

- After a state-sponsored charter school has been in operation for at least one year, it may submit a request to the local school district board for a change of sponsorship from the State Board of Education to the local school board.
- At least one year prior to the expiration of their contract, however, the charter school is required to submit to the local school board for renewal.
- The local school board shall treat the request as though the charter is being renewed, and will follow statutory processes concerning renewal.
- The local board's decision to accept or deny the request for change of sponsorship is final and not subject to appeal. If the local school district board denies the request, the charter school may seek renewal of its charter with the State Board of Education.