

CHARTER SCHOOL AMENDMENTS

2010 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Howard A. Stephenson

House Sponsor: Rebecca D. Lockhart

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill modifies provisions regarding the operation and governance of charter schools.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ expands the membership of the State Board of Education by including a member of the State Charter School Board as a nonvoting member;
- ▶ removes a statutory enrollment cap on charter schools;
- ▶ allows the State Board of Education to approve an increase in charter school enrollment capacity subject to the Legislature appropriating funds for the increase;
- ▶ modifies procedures for:
 - admitting students to charter schools; and
 - transferring from a charter school to a school district or another charter school;
- ▶ modifies conflict of interest provisions applicable to charter school officers;
- ▶ provides for the nomination by the State Charter School Board of members of a committee that reviews requests for loans to charter schools; and
- ▶ makes technical amendments.

Monies Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None



28 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

29 AMENDS:

30 **53A-1-101**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 346

31 **53A-1a-502.5**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 391

32 **53A-1a-506.5**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 222

33 **53A-1a-515**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2007, Chapter 344

34 **53A-1a-518**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2007, Chapter 344

35 **53A-21-401**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 236



37 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

38 Section 1. Section **53A-1-101** is amended to read:

39 **53A-1-101. State Board of Education -- Members.**

40 (1) Members of the State Board of Education shall be nominated and elected as
41 provided in Title 20A, Chapter 14, Nomination and Election of State and Local School Boards.

42 (2) (a) In addition to the members designated under Subsection (1), the following
43 members shall serve as nonvoting members of the State Board of Education:

44 (i) two members of the State Board of Regents, appointed by the chair of the State
45 Board of Regents; ~~and~~

46 (ii) one member of the Utah College of Applied Technology Board of Trustees,
47 appointed by the chair of the board of trustees[-]; and

48 (iii) one member of the State Charter School Board, appointed by the chair of the State
49 Charter School Board.

50 (b) A nonvoting member shall continue to serve as a member without a set term until
51 the member is replaced by the chair of the State Board of Regents ~~[or the]~~, chair of the Utah
52 College of Applied Technology Board of Trustees, or chair of the State Charter School Board,
53 as applicable.

54 Section 2. Section **53A-1a-502.5** is amended to read:

55 **53A-1a-502.5. Approval of increase in charter school enrollment capacity.**

56 ~~[(1) The State Charter School Board and local school boards may only authorize a~~
57 ~~combined maximum student capacity of:]~~

58 ~~[(a) 32,921 students for the charter schools in the 2008-09 school year; and]~~

59 ~~[(b) beginning in the 2009-10 school year, an annual increase in charter school~~
 60 ~~enrollment capacity equal to 1.4% of total school district enrollment as of October 1 of the~~
 61 ~~previous school year.]~~

62 ~~[(2) (a) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the State Charter School~~
 63 ~~Board, shall allocate the students under Subsection (1) between the State Charter School Board~~
 64 ~~and local school boards.]~~

65 ~~[(b) One-third of the student capacity described under Subsection (1)(b) shall be~~
 66 ~~allocated to increase the maximum student capacity of operating charter schools.]~~

67 ~~[(c) If the operating charter schools do not use the allocation described under~~
 68 ~~Subsection (2)(b), the remaining student capacity may be used by new charter schools.]~~

69 ~~[(3) An] The State Board of Education may approve an increase in charter school~~
 70 ~~enrollment capacity in the 2011-12 school year or thereafter [shall receive: (a) tentative~~
 71 ~~approval by the State Board of Education by November 30 of the year that is two years before~~
 72 ~~the year that the increase in charter school enrollment capacity takes effect; and (b) final~~
 73 ~~approval by the State Board of Education by the following April 1, subject to legislative~~
 74 ~~authorization of] subject to the Legislature appropriating funds for the increase in charter~~
 75 ~~school enrollment capacity.~~

76 Section 3. Section ~~53A-1a-506.5~~ is amended to read:

77 **53A-1a-506.5. Charter school students -- Admissions procedures -- Transfers.**

78 (1) As used in this section:

79 (a) "District school" means a public school under the control of a local school board
 80 elected pursuant to Title 20A, Chapter 14, Nomination and Election of State and Local School
 81 Boards.

82 (b) "Nonresident school district" means a school district other than a student's school
 83 district of residence.

84 (c) "School district of residence" means a student's school district of residence as
 85 determined under Section 53A-2-201.

86 (d) "School of residence" means the school to which a student is assigned to attend
 87 based on the student's place of residence.

88 ~~[(+)]~~ (2) (a) The State School Board, in consultation with the State Charter School
 89 Board, shall make rules describing procedures for students to follow in applying for entry into,

90 ~~or exiting~~, a [new] charter school [~~or a charter school that has increased its capacity~~].

91 (b) The rules under Subsection ~~[(1)]~~ (2)(a) shall, at a minimum, provide~~[-as a~~
92 ~~minimum,]~~ for:

93 ~~[(i) distribution to interested parties of information about charter schools, charter~~
94 ~~school opening dates, and how to apply for admission;]~~

95 (i) posting on a charter school's Internet website, beginning no later than 60 days before
96 the school's initial period of applications:

97 (A) procedures for applying for admission to the charter school;

98 (B) (I) the school's opening date, if the school has not yet opened; or

99 (II) the school calendar; and

100 (C) information on how a student may transfer from a charter school to another charter
101 school or a district school;

102 (ii) use of standard application forms prescribed by the State Board of Education;

103 ~~[(iii) an initial period of applications that shall include:]~~

104 ~~[(A) submission of applications until the third Friday in February by those seeking~~
105 ~~admission for the following year;]~~

106 ~~[(B)]~~ (iii) written notification to ~~[the]~~ a student's parent or legal guardian of an offer of
107 ~~[acceptance or the rejection of an application by March 31; and]~~ admission;

108 ~~[(C)]~~ (iv) written acceptance of ~~[the offer by the]~~ an offer of admission by a student's
109 parent or legal guardian [by April 30];

110 ~~[(iv) procedures for the additional submission, notification, and written acceptance of~~
111 ~~applications subsequent to the period described under Subsection (1)(b)(iii), to be concluded~~
112 ~~prior to June 30;]~~

113 (v) written notification to a student's current charter school or [resident] school district
114 of residence upon acceptance of [that] the student for enrollment in a charter school; and

115 (vi) the admission of students, provided that the admission does not disqualify the
116 charter school from [any] federal funding, at:

117 (A) any time to protect the health or safety of a student; or

118 (B) times other than those permitted under standard policies if there are other
119 conditions of special need that warrant consideration.

120 (c) The rules under Subsection ~~[(1)]~~ (2)(a) shall prevent the parent of a student who is

121 enrolled in a charter school or who has accepted an offer [~~as described in Subsection~~
 122 ~~(1)(b)(iii)(C)~~] of admission to a charter school from duplicating enrollment for [~~that~~] the
 123 student in another charter school or a school district without following the withdrawal
 124 procedures described in Subsection [~~(2)~~] (3).

125 [~~(2)~~] (3) The parent of a student enrolled in a charter school may withdraw the student
 126 from [~~that~~] the charter school for enrollment in another charter school or a school district by
 127 submitting to the charter school:

128 [~~(a)~~] submitting notice of intent to enroll the student in the district of residence for the
 129 subsequent year to the student's charter school no later than June 30 of the current school year;]

130 [~~(b)~~] submitting notice of intent to enroll the student in another charter school for the
 131 subsequent school year to the current charter school of attendance, together with a letter of
 132 acceptance from the proposed charter school of attendance, no later than June 30 of the current
 133 school year; or]

134 [~~(c)~~] obtaining approval from both the charter school of attendance and the school
 135 district or charter school in which enrollment is sought, if the parent desires to change the
 136 student's enrollment during the school year or after June 30;]

137 (a) on or before June 30, a notice of intent to enroll the student in the student's school
 138 of residence for the following school year;

139 (b) after June 30, a letter of acceptance for enrollment in the student's school district of
 140 residence for the following year;

141 (c) a letter of acceptance for enrollment in the student's school district of residence in
 142 the current school year;

143 (d) a letter of acceptance for enrollment in a nonresident school district; or

144 (e) a letter of acceptance for enrollment in a charter school.

145 [~~(3)~~] (4) (a) A charter school shall report to a school [districts] district, by the last
 146 business day [in April, May, June, July, and August,] of each month the aggregate [numbers]
 147 number of new students, sorted by their [resident] school of residence and grade level, who
 148 have accepted enrollment in the charter school for the following school year.

149 (b) A school district shall report to a charter school, by the last business day of each
 150 month, the aggregate number of students enrolled in the charter school who have accepted
 151 enrollment in the school district in the following school year, sorted by grade level.

152 ~~[(4)]~~ (5) When a vacancy occurs because a student has withdrawn from a charter
153 school, ~~[that]~~ the charter school may immediately enroll a new student from its list of
154 applicants.

155 ~~[(5)]~~ (6) Unless provisions have previously been made for enrollment in another
156 school, a charter school releasing a student from enrollment during a school year shall
157 immediately notify the school district of residence, which shall enroll the student in the
158 ~~[resident]~~ school district of residence and take ~~[such]~~ additional steps as may be necessary to
159 ensure compliance with laws governing school attendance.

160 (7) (a) The parent of a student enrolled in a charter school may withdraw the student
161 from the charter school for enrollment in the student's school of residence in the following
162 school year if an application of admission is submitted to the school district of residence by
163 June 30.

164 (b) If the parent of a student enrolled in a charter school submits an application of
165 admission to the student's school district of residence after June 30 for the student's enrollment
166 in the school district of residence in the following school year, or an application of admission is
167 submitted for enrollment during the current school year, the student may enroll in a school of
168 the school district of residence that has adequate capacity in:

169 (i) the student's grade level, if the student is an elementary school student; or
170 (ii) the core classes that the student needs to take, if the student is a secondary school
171 student.

172 (c) State Board of Education rules made under Subsection (2)(a) shall specify how
173 adequate capacity in a grade level or core classes is determined for the purposes of Subsection
174 (7)(b).

175 (8) Notwithstanding Subsection (7), a school district may enroll a student at any time
176 to protect the health and safety of the student.

177 ~~[(6)]~~ (9) A school district or charter school may charge secondary students a one-time
178 \$5 processing fee, to be paid at the time of application.

179 Section 4. Section **53A-1a-515** is amended to read:

180 **53A-1a-515. Charters authorized by local school boards.**

181 (1) ~~[(a)]~~ Individuals and entities identified in Section 53A-1a-504 may enter into an
182 agreement with a local school board to establish and operate a charter school within the

183 geographical boundaries of the school district administered by the board.

184 ~~[(b) The charter schools described in Subsection (1)(a) are in addition to the limited~~
185 ~~number of charter schools authorized by the State Charter School Board in Section~~
186 ~~53A-1a-502.5.]~~

187 (2) (a) An existing public school that converts to charter status under a charter granted
188 by a local school board may:

189 (i) continue to receive the same services from the school district that it received prior to
190 its conversion; or

191 (ii) contract out for some or all of those services with other public or private providers.

192 (b) Any other charter school authorized by a local school board may contract with the
193 board to receive some or all of the services referred to in Subsection (3)(a).

194 (3) (a) (i) A public school that converts to a charter school under a charter granted by a
195 local school board shall receive funding:

196 (A) through the school district; and

197 (B) on the same basis as it did prior to its conversion to a charter school.

198 (ii) The school may also receive federal monies designated for charter schools under
199 any federal program.

200 (b) (i) A local school board-authorized charter school operating in a facility owned by
201 the school district and not paying reasonable rent to the school district shall receive funding:

202 (A) through the school district; and

203 (B) on the same basis that other district schools receive funding.

204 (ii) The school may also receive federal monies designated for charter schools under
205 any federal program.

206 (c) Subject to the provisions in Section 53A-1a-502.5, a charter school authorized by a
207 local school board shall receive funding as provided in Section 53A-1a-513.

208 (d) (i) A charter school authorized by a local school board, but not described in
209 Subsection (3)(a), (b), or (c) shall receive funding:

210 (A) through the school district; and

211 (B) on the same basis that other district schools receive funding.

212 (ii) The school may also receive federal monies designated for charter schools under
213 any federal program.

214 (4) (a) A local school board that receives an application for a charter school under this
215 section shall, within 45 days, either accept or reject the application.

216 (b) If the board rejects the application, it shall notify the applicant in writing of the
217 reason for the rejection.

218 (c) The applicant may submit a revised application for reconsideration by the board.

219 (d) If the local school board refuses to authorize the applicant, the applicant may seek a
220 charter from the State Charter School Board under Section 53A-1a-505.

221 (5) The State Board of Education shall make a rule providing for a timeline for the
222 opening of a charter school following the approval of a charter school application by a local
223 school board.

224 (6) (a) After approval of a charter school application, the applicant and the local school
225 board shall set forth the terms and conditions for the operation of the charter school in a written
226 contractual agreement.

227 (b) The agreement is the school's charter.

228 (7) A local school board shall:

229 (a) annually review and evaluate the performance of charter schools authorized by the
230 local school board and hold the schools accountable for their performance;

231 (b) monitor charter schools authorized by the local school board for compliance with
232 federal and state laws, rules, and regulations; and

233 (c) provide technical support to charter schools authorized by the local school board to
234 assist them in understanding and performing their charter obligations.

235 (8) A local school board may terminate a charter school it authorizes as provided in
236 Sections 53A-1a-509 and 53A-1a-510.

237 (9) In addition to the exemptions described in Sections 53A-1a-511 and 53A-1a-512, a
238 charter school authorized by a local school board is:

239 (a) not required to separately submit a report or information required under this title to
240 the State Board of Education if the information is included in a report or information that is
241 submitted by the local school board or school district; and

242 (b) exempt from the requirement under Section 53A-1a-507 that a charter school shall
243 be organized and managed under Title 16, Chapter 6a, Utah Revised Nonprofit Corporation
244 Act.

245 Section 5. Section **53A-1a-518** is amended to read:

246 **53A-1a-518. Regulated transactions and relationships -- Definitions --**

247 **Rulemaking.**

248 (1) As used in this section:

249 (a) "Charter school officer" means:

250 (i) a member of a charter school's governing board;

251 (ii) a member of a board or an officer of a nonprofit corporation under which a charter
252 school is organized and managed; [~~and~~] or

253 (iii) the chief administrative officer of a charter school.

254 (b) (i) "Employment" means a position in which a person's salary, wages, pay, or
255 compensation, whether as an employee or contractor, is paid from charter school funds.

256 (ii) "Employment" does not include a charter school volunteer.

257 (c) "Relative" means a father, mother, husband, wife, son, daughter, sister, brother,
258 uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, first cousin, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law,
259 sister-in-law, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law.

260 (2) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), a relative of a charter school officer
261 may not be employed at a charter school.

262 (b) If a relative of a charter school officer is to be considered for employment in a
263 charter school, the charter school officer shall:

264 (i) disclose the relationship, in writing, to the other charter school officers;

265 (ii) submit the employment decision to the charter school's governing board for the
266 approval, by majority vote, [~~to~~] of the charter school's governing board;

267 (iii) abstain from voting on the issue; and

268 (iv) be absent from any meeting when the employment is being considered and
269 determined.

270 (3) (a) [~~A~~] Except as provided in Subsections (3)(b) and (3)(c), a charter school officer
271 or a relative of a charter school officer may not have a financial interest in a contract or other
272 transaction involving a charter school in which the charter school officer serves as a charter
273 school officer.

274 (b) If a charter school's governing board considers entering into a contract or executing
275 a transaction in which a charter school officer or a relative of a charter school officer has a

276 financial interest, the charter school officer shall:

277 (i) disclose the financial interest, in writing, to the other charter school officers;

278 (ii) submit the contract or transaction decision to the charter school's governing board
279 for the approval, by majority vote, of the charter school's governing board;

280 (iii) abstain from voting on the issue; and

281 (iv) be absent from any meeting when the contract or transaction is being considered
282 and determined.

283 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) The provisions in Subsection (3)(a) do not apply to a reasonable contract of
284 employment for:

285 (i) the chief administrative officer of a charter school; ~~[and]~~ or

286 (ii) ~~[the]~~ a relative of the chief administrative officer of a charter school whose
287 employment is approved in accordance with the provisions in Subsection (2).

288 (4) The State Board of Education or State Charter School Board may not operate a
289 charter school.

290 Section 6. Section **53A-21-401** is amended to read:

291 **53A-21-401. Capital Outlay Loan Program -- School Building Revolving Account**
292 **-- Access to the account.**

293 (1) There is created:

294 (a) the "Capital Outlay Loan Program" to provide:

295 (i) short-term help to school districts to meet district needs for school building
296 construction and renovation; and

297 (ii) assistance to charter schools to meet school building construction and renovation
298 needs; and

299 (b) a nonlapsing "School Building Revolving Account" administered within the
300 Uniform School Fund by the state superintendent of public instruction in accordance with rules
301 adopted by the State Board of Education.

302 (2) The State Board of Education may not allocate funds from the School Building
303 Revolving Account that exceed a school district's bonding limit minus its outstanding bonds.

304 (3) In order to receive monies from the account, a school district shall:

305 (a) levy a combined capital levy rate of at least .0024;

306 (b) contract with the state superintendent of public instruction to repay the monies,

307 with interest at a rate established by the state superintendent, within five years of receipt, using
308 future state capital outlay allocations, local revenues, or both;

309 (c) levy sufficient ad valorem taxes under Section 11-14-310 to guarantee annual loan
310 repayments, unless the state superintendent of public instruction alters the payment schedule to
311 improve a hardship situation; and

312 (d) meet any other condition established by the State Board of Education pertinent to
313 the loan.

314 (4) (a) The state superintendent shall establish a committee, including representatives
315 from state and local education entities, to:

316 (i) review requests by school districts for loans under this section; and

317 (ii) make recommendations regarding approval or disapproval of the loan applications
318 to the state superintendent.

319 (b) If the committee recommends approval of a loan application under Subsection
320 (4)(a)(ii), the committee's recommendation shall include:

321 (i) the recommended amount of the loan;

322 (ii) the payback schedule; and

323 (iii) the interest rate to be charged.

324 (5) (a) There is established within the School Building Revolving Account the Charter
325 School Building Subaccount administered by the State Board of Education, in consultation
326 with the State Charter School Board, in accordance with rules adopted by the State Board of
327 Education.

328 (b) The Charter School Building Subaccount shall consist of:

329 (i) money appropriated to the subaccount by the Legislature;

330 (ii) money received from the repayment of loans made from the subaccount; and

331 (iii) interest earned on monies in the subaccount.

332 (c) The state superintendent of public instruction shall make loans to charter schools
333 from the Charter School Building Subaccount to pay for the costs of:

334 (i) planning expenses;

335 (ii) constructing or renovating charter school buildings;

336 (iii) equipment and supplies; or

337 (iv) other start-up or expansion expenses.

338 (d) Loans to new charter schools or charter schools with urgent facility needs may be
339 given priority.

340 (6) (a) The State Board of Education shall establish a committee~~[- which shall include~~
341 ~~individuals who have expertise or experience in finance, real estate, and charter school~~
342 ~~administration, one of whom shall be nominated by the governor]~~ to:

- 343 (i) review requests by charter schools for loans under this section; and
- 344 (ii) make recommendations regarding approval or disapproval of the loan applications
345 to the State Charter School Board and the State Board of Education.

346 (b) (i) A committee established under Subsection (6)(a) shall include individuals who
347 have expertise or experience in finance, real estate, or charter school administration.

348 (ii) Of the members appointed to a committee established under Subsection (6)(a):

349 (A) one member shall be nominated by the governor; and

350 (B) the remaining members shall be selected from a list of nominees submitted by the
351 State Charter School Board.

352 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) If the committee recommends approval of a loan application under Subsection
353 (6)(a)(ii), the committee's recommendation shall include:

- 354 (i) the recommended amount of the loan;
- 355 (ii) the payback schedule; and
- 356 (iii) the interest rate to be charged.

357 ~~[(c)]~~ (d) The committee members may not:

- 358 (i) be a relative, as defined in Section 53A-1a-518, of a loan applicant; or
- 359 (ii) have a pecuniary interest, directly or indirectly, with a loan applicant or any person
360 or entity that contracts with a loan applicant.

361 (7) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the State Charter School Board,
362 shall approve all loans to a charter school under this section.

363 (8) The term of a loan to a charter school under this section may not exceed five years.

364 (9) The State Board of Education may not approve loans to charter schools under this
365 section that exceed a total of \$2,000,000 in any year.

Legislative Review Note
as of 2-18-10 6:07 AM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

S.B. 188 - Charter School Amendments

Fiscal Note

2010 General Session
State of Utah

State Impact

Enactment of this bill adds an additional non-voting member to the State Board of Education. An ongoing appropriation from the Uniform School Fund of \$1,300 may be required to provide per diem and expense reimbursements associated with attending State Board of Education meetings.

	<u>FY 2010</u> <u>Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2011</u> <u>Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2012</u> <u>Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2010</u> <u>Revenue</u>	<u>FY 2011</u> <u>Revenue</u>	<u>FY 2012</u> <u>Revenue</u>
Uniform School Fund	\$0	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$0	\$0	\$0

Individual, Business and/or Local Impact

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for individuals, businesses, or local governments.