

Senator Deidre M. Henderson proposes the following substitute bill:

CHARTER SCHOOL REVISIONS

2015 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Deidre M. Henderson

House Sponsor: Jon E. Stanard

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends and enacts provisions related to charter schools.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms; and
- ▶ allows a charter school authorizer, in response to a request of the governing board of a charter school and subject to certain conditions, to:
 - terminate the school's charter; and
 - transfer operation and control of the charter school to the school district where the charter school is located or to a high performing charter school.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

53A-1a-509.5, Utah Code Annotated 1953



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

27 Section 1. Section **53A-1a-509.5** is enacted to read:

28 **53A-1a-509.5. Voluntary school improvement process.**

29 (1) As used in this section, "high performing charter school" means a charter school

30 that:

31 (a) satisfies all requirements of state law and State Board of Education rules;

32 (b) has operated for at least three years meeting the terms of the school's charter

33 agreement; and

34 (c) has students performing at or above the academic performance standard in the
35 school's charter agreement.

36 (2) (a) Subject to Subsection (2)(b), a governing board may voluntarily request the
37 charter school's authorizer to place the school in a school improvement process.

38 (b) A governing board shall provide notice and a hearing on the governing board's
39 intent to make a request under Subsection (2)(a) to parents and guardians of students enrolled
40 in the charter school.

41 (3) An authorizer may grant a governing board's request to be placed in a school
42 improvement process if the governing board has provided notice and a hearing under
43 Subsection (2)(b).

44 (4) An authorizer that has entered into a school improvement process with a governing
45 board shall:

46 (a) enter into a contract with the governing board on the terms of the school
47 improvement process;

48 (b) notify the State Board of Education that the authorizer has entered into a school
49 improvement process with the governing board; and

50 (c) notify the Utah Charter School Finance Authority that the authorizer has entered
51 into a school improvement process with the governing board if the charter school is a
52 qualifying charter school with outstanding bonds issued in accordance with Chapter 20b, Part
53 2, Charter School Credit Enhancement Program.

54 (5) Upon notification under Subsection (4)(b), the State Board of Education shall
55 notify charter schools and the school district in which the charter school is located that the
56 governing board has entered into a school improvement process with the charter school's

57 authorizer.

58 (6) A high performing charter school or the school district in which the charter school
59 is located may apply to the governing board to assume operation of the charter school that has
60 been placed in a school improvement process.

61 (7) A governing board that has entered into a school improvement process shall review
62 applications submitted under Subsection (6) and submit a proposal to the charter school's
63 authorizer to:

64 (a) terminate the school's charter, notwithstanding the requirements of Section
65 53A-1a-510; and

66 (b) transfer operation and control of the charter school to:

67 (i) the school district in which the charter school is located; or

68 (ii) a high performing charter school.

69 (8) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (8)(b), an authorizer may:

70 (i) approve a governing board's proposal under Subsection (7); or

71 (ii) terminate the school's charter in accordance with Section 53A-1a-510.

72 (b) An authorizer may not take an action under Subsection (8)(a) for a qualifying
73 charter school with outstanding bonds issued in accordance with Chapter 20b, Part 2, Charter
74 School Credit Enhancement Program, without mutual agreement of the Utah Charter School
75 Finance Authority and the authorizer.