Regular Session, 2010

ACT No. 722

HOUSE BILL NO. 962

BY REPRESENTATIVES CARTER, BOBBY BADON, HENRY BURNS, TIM BURNS, CARMODY, CHAMPAGNE, CONNICK, GISCLAIR, HARDY, HOFFMANN, KATZ, LABRUZZO, LIGI, NOWLIN, RICHARD, ROBIDEAUX, SIMON, SMILEY, WILLIAMS, AND WOOTON AND SENATORS APPEL, BROOME, DONAHUE, DUPLESSIS, MARTINY, AND QUINN

1 AN ACT 2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3982(A)(1)(a) and (2) and (B) and 3992(A)(1) and (2), 3 relative to charter schools; to provide relative to the process for submission, review, and approval of charter school proposals and renewal of charters; to provide relative 4 5 to the use of local school board facilities and property by a chartering group; and to provide for related matters. 6 7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana: 8 Section 1. R.S. 17:3982(A)(1)(a) and (2) and (B) and 3992(A)(1) and (2) are hereby 9 amended and reenacted to read as follows: 10 §3982. Local school boards; duties 11 A.(1)(a)(i) Local school boards shall comply with R.S. 17:3983 and shall 12 review and formally act upon each proposed charter within thirty ninety days of its 13 submission and in the order in which submitted. In doing such review, the local 14 school board shall determine whether each proposed charter complies with the law 15 and rules, whether the proposal is valid, complete, financially well-structured, and educationally sound, and whether it offers potential for fulfilling the purposes of this 16 17 Chapter. The local board shall engage in an a transparent application review process 18 that complies with the latest Principles and Standards for Quality Charter School 19 Authorizing, as promulgated by the National Association of Charter School 20 Authorizers, and shall provide for an independent evaluation of the charter proposal 21 by a third party with educational, organizational, legal, and financial expertise.

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(ii) A local school board may accept charter proposals until February twentyeighth of each year and shall provide written notification of its final decision to the chartering group. Notifications of charter proposals denied shall include written explanation of the reasons for such denial.

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disapproval of such charter school proposal within thirty days, but within such time the local school board shall indicate whether it is interested in working with the charter school group on its proposal and what specific time line and procedures the local school board will follow prior to coming to a final decision. If the local school board expresses within thirty days no interest in working with the group, or if The local school board shall make public through its website, and in printed form upon request, the guidelines for submitting a charter proposal, all forms required for submission of a charter proposal, the timelines established for accepting and reviewing charter proposals, the process that will be used to review charter proposals submitted to the board, and the name and contact information for a primary point of contact for charter proposals. If no final decision is received within sixty ninety days after the submission of the proposal, then the chartering group may submit its proposal to the state board for its review. The local board shall make public the process used to review any charter proposals received.

B. Local school boards shall make available to chartering groups any vacant school facilities or any facility slated to be vacant for lease or purchase at up to fair market value. In the case of a Type 2 charter school created as a result of a conversion, the facility and all property within the existing school shall also be made available to that chartering group under similar terms. In return for the use of the facility and its contents, the chartering group shall pay a proportionate share of the local school board's bonded indebtedness to be calculated in the same manner as set forth in R.S. 17:1990(C)(2)(a)(i). If such facilities were constructed at no cost to the local school board, then such facilities including all equipment, books, instructional

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materials, and furniture within such facilities shall be provided to the charter school at no cost.

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§3992. Charter revision and renewal

A.(1) Unless revoked as provided for in Subsection C of this Section, an approved school charter shall be valid for an initial period of five years, contingent upon the results of the reporting requirements at the end of the third year as provided in R.S. 17:3998(A)(2), and may be renewed for additional periods of not less than three nor more than ten years after thorough review by the approving chartering authority of the charter school's operations and compliance with charter requirements. The process for renewing a school charter shall be the same as for initial charter approval, with a written report being provided annually to the chartering authority regarding the school's academic progress that year. The chartering authority shall notify the chartering group in writing of any decisions made relative to the renewal or non-renewal of a school's charter not later than January thirty-first of the year in which the charter would expire. A notification that a charter will not be renewed shall include written explanation of the reasons for such non-renewal. Pursuant to Subsection C of this Section and using such annual review process, a charter may be revoked for failure to meet agreed-upon academic results as specified in the charter.

(2)(a) No charter shall be renewed unless the charter renewal applicant can demonstrate, using standardized test scores, improvement in the academic performance of pupils over the term of the charter school's existence.

- (b) Each charter school shall be provided by its chartering authority with the criteria and procedures that will be used when considering whether to renew a school's charter.
- (c) A charter school which has met or exceeded for the three preceding school years the benchmarks established for it in accordance with the school and district accountability system, has demonstrated growth in student academic achievement for the three preceding school years, and has had no significant audit

1	findings during the term of the charter agreement shall be deemed a high-performing
2	school, and such school's charter shall be automatically renewed.
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	SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
	PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
	GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

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APPROVED: _____