

# 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,  
4 and approval of charter school proposals and renewal of charters; to provide relative  
5 to the use of local school board facilities and property by a chartering group; and to  
6 provide for related matters.

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  
16 educationally sound, and whether it offers potential for fulfilling the purposes of this  
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.



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

3 \* \* \*

4 §3992. Charter revision and renewal

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

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

24 (b) Each charter school shall be provided by its chartering authority with the  
25 criteria and procedures that will be used when considering whether to renew a  
26 school's charter.

27 (c) A charter school which has met or exceeded for the three preceding  
28 school years the benchmarks established for it in accordance with the school and  
29 district accountability system, has demonstrated growth in student academic  
30 achievement for the three preceding school years, and has had no significant audit

