

HB 2178 -- CHARTER SCHOOL EXPANSION

SPONSOR: Richey

This bill expands where charter schools may be operated to include any school district located within a charter county, currently this includes St. Charles, Jefferson and St. Louis counties, as well as in any district that includes a municipality with a population greater than 30,000.

Procedures relating to changes in a school district's accreditation status that affect charter schools are repealed under this bill as are "workplace charter schools" (Section 160.400, RSMo).

The bill modifies language that restricts which charter schools may receive state aid (Section 160.415).

As specified in this bill, St. Louis City shall not adopt, enforce, impose, or administer an ordinance, local policy, or local resolution that prohibits property sold, leased, or transferred by the city from being used for any lawful education purpose by a charter school.

St. Louis City may not impose, enforce, or apply any deed restriction that expressly, or by its operation, prohibits property sold, leased, or transferred by the city from being used for any lawful educational purpose by a charter school.

If St. Louis City offers property of the city for sale, lease, or rent, St. Louis shall not refuse to sell, lease, or rent to a charter school solely because the charter school intends to use the property for an educational purpose (Section 160.422).

This bill is similar to HB 158 (2023) and HB 2087 (2022).