

Assembly Bill No. 26—Committee on Education

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to charter schools; revising the deadline for submission of an application for renewal of a written charter; revising provisions governing the exemption from annual performance audits for certain charter schools; revising certain annual reports concerning the progress made by charter schools; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Section 1 of this bill changes the deadline by which a charter school must submit an application for renewal of the written charter from 90 days to 120 days before the expiration of the charter. (NRS 386.530)

A charter school that meets certain requirements, including certain financial and performance standards, is eligible for an exemption from the requirement of an annual performance audit and must instead undergo a performance audit every 3 years. (NRS 386.5515) **Section 2** of this bill provides that if such a charter school no longer satisfies the requirements for an exemption or if reasonable evidence of noncompliance in achieving the educational goals and objectives of the charter school exists, the charter school will be required to submit to an annual performance audit. After undergoing the annual performance audit, the charter school may reapply for the exemption.

Existing law requires the board of trustees of a school district and a college or university within the Nevada System of Higher Education which sponsors a charter school to submit an annual report to the State Board of Education on the evaluation of the progress made by the charter school in achieving its educational goals and objectives. (NRS 386.610) **Section 3** of this bill requires an annual report to be made by the Department of Education for each charter school sponsored by the State Board.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 386.530 is hereby amended to read as follows:
386.530 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, an application for renewal of a written charter may be submitted to the sponsor of the charter school not less than ~~90~~ 120 days before the expiration of the charter. The application must include the information prescribed by the regulations of the Department. The sponsor shall conduct an intensive review and evaluation of the charter school in accordance with the regulations of the Department. The sponsor shall renew the charter unless it finds the existence of any ground for revocation set forth in NRS 386.535. The sponsor shall provide written notice of its determination not fewer than 30



days before the expiration of the charter. If the sponsor intends not to renew the charter, the written notice must:

(a) Include a statement of the deficiencies or reasons upon which the action of the sponsor is based; and

(b) Prescribe a period of not less than 30 days during which the charter school may correct any such deficiencies.

➡ If the charter school corrects the deficiencies to the satisfaction of the sponsor within the time prescribed in paragraph (b), the sponsor shall renew the charter of the charter school.

2. A charter school may submit an application for renewal of its initial charter after 3 years of operation of the charter school. The application must include the information prescribed by the regulations of the Department. The sponsor shall conduct an intensive review and evaluation of the charter school in accordance with the regulations of the Department. The sponsor shall renew the charter unless it finds the existence of any ground for revocation set forth in NRS 386.535. The sponsor shall provide written notice of its determination. If the sponsor intends not to renew the charter, the written notice must:

(a) Include a statement of the deficiencies or reasons upon which the action of the sponsor is based; and

(b) Prescribe a period of not less than 30 days during which the charter school may correct any such deficiencies.

➡ If the charter school corrects the deficiencies to the satisfaction of the sponsor within the time prescribed in paragraph (b), the sponsor shall renew the charter of the charter school.

Sec. 2. NRS 386.5515 is hereby amended to read as follows:

386.5515 1. To the extent money is available from legislative appropriation or otherwise, a charter school may apply to the Department for money for facilities if:

(a) The charter school has been operating in this State for at least 5 consecutive years and is in good financial standing;

(b) Each financial audit and each performance audit of the charter school required by the Department contains no major notations, corrections or errors concerning the charter school for at least 5 consecutive years;

(c) The charter school has met or exceeded adequate yearly progress as determined pursuant to NRS 385.3613 or has demonstrated improvement in the achievement of pupils enrolled in the charter school, as indicated by annual measurable objectives determined by the State Board, for the majority of the years of its operation;



(d) The charter school offers instruction on a daily basis during the school week of the charter school on the campus of the charter school; and

(e) At least 75 percent of the pupils enrolled in the charter school who are required to take the high school proficiency examination have passed that examination, if the charter school enrolls pupils at a high school grade level.

2. A charter school that satisfies the requirements of subsection 1 shall submit to a performance audit as required by the Department one time every 3 years. The sponsor of the charter school and the Department shall not request a performance audit of the charter school more frequently than every 3 years without ~~showing good cause for such a request.~~ *reasonable evidence of noncompliance in achieving the educational goals and objectives of the charter school based upon the annual report submitted to the State Board pursuant to NRS 386.610. If the charter school no longer satisfies the requirements of subsection 1 or if reasonable evidence of noncompliance in achieving the educational goals and objectives of the charter school exists based upon the annual report, the charter school shall, upon written notice from the sponsor, submit to an annual performance audit. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (b) of subsection 1, such a charter school:*

(a) May, after undergoing the annual performance audit, reply to the sponsor to determine whether the charter school satisfies the requirements of paragraphs (a), (c), (d) and (e) of subsection 1.

(b) Is not eligible for any available money pursuant to subsection 1 until the sponsor determines that the charter school satisfies the requirements of that subsection.

3. A charter school that does not satisfy the requirements of subsection 1 shall submit a quarterly report of the financial status of the charter school if requested by the sponsor of the charter school.

Sec. 3. NRS 386.610 is hereby amended to read as follows:

386.610 1. On or before August 15 of each year, if the *State Board, the* board of trustees of a school district or a college or university within the Nevada System of Higher Education sponsors a charter school, the *Department, the* board of trustees or the institution, as applicable, shall submit a written report to the State Board. The written report must include:

(a) An evaluation of the progress of each charter school sponsored by the *State Board, the* board of trustees or *the* institution, as applicable, in achieving its educational goals and objectives.



(b) A description of all administrative support and services provided by the **Department, the** school district or **the** institution, as applicable, to the charter school.

2. The governing body of a charter school shall, after 3 years of operation under its initial charter, submit a written report to the sponsor of the charter school. The written report must include a description of the progress of the charter school in achieving its educational goals and objectives. If the charter school submits an application for renewal in accordance with the regulations of the Department, the sponsor may renew the written charter of the school pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 386.530.

Sec. 4. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2009.

