

SENATE BILL NO. 185

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATORS GARDNER, McGuire, Dyson

Introduced: 2/21/14

Referred: Education, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the funding of charter schools; and relating to the conversion of
2 existing public schools to charter schools."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 14.03.250(b) is amended to read:

5 (b) A local school board shall prescribe an application procedure for the
6 establishment of a charter school in that school district. The application procedure
7 must include provisions for an academic policy committee consisting of parents of
8 students attending the school, teachers, and school employees, provisions for
9 conversion of an existing school in the district to a charter school, and a proposed
10 form for a contract between a charter school and the local school board, setting out the
11 contract elements required under AS 14.03.255(c).

12 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.03.250 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

13 (d) A school district shall assist a charter school applicant in converting an
14 existing school operating in the district to a charter school if the applicant

1 demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the district, that a majority of the parents and
 2 guardians of students enrolled in the school support conversion to a charter school. On
 3 approval of the school board and the state board under (c) of this section, the district
 4 shall transfer the operation of the school, along with furnishings, materials, and
 5 fixtures, to the advisory body of the charter school for use by the charter school for the
 6 duration of the charter. The school district shall, however, continue to pay costs
 7 associated with operating the facility from the district budget and may not charge rent
 8 or other expenses of the facility to the charter school.

9 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.03 is amended by adding a new section to read:

10 **Sec. 14.03.263. Charter school grant program.** (a) A charter school that is
 11 established on or after the effective date of this Act may receive a one-time grant from
 12 the department equal to the amount of \$500 for each student enrolled in the school on
 13 October 1 of the first year in which the school applies for the grant. The charter school
 14 shall use a grant received under this section to provide educational services. In this
 15 subsection, "educational services" includes curriculum development, program
 16 development, and special education services.

17 (b) The department shall establish by regulation procedures for the application
 18 for and expenditure of grant funds under (a) of this section.

19 (c) If the amount appropriated in a fiscal year for the charter school grant
 20 program is insufficient to meet the amounts authorized under (a) of this section, the
 21 department shall reduce pro rata the per pupil grant amount by the necessary
 22 percentage as determined by the department. If a charter school grant is reduced under
 23 this subsection, the charter school may apply to the department in a subsequent fiscal
 24 year for the balance of the grant amount.

25 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.03.265(a) is amended to read:

26 (a) The program of a charter school may be designed to serve

27 (1) students within an age group or grade level;

28 (2) students who will benefit from a particular teaching method or
 29 curriculum; [OR]

30 (3) nonresident students, including providing domiciliary services for
 31 students who need those services, if approved by the board; **or**

1 **(4) students who attended a public school that was converted to a**
 2 **charter school under AS 14.03.250(b).**

3 * **Sec. 5.** AS 14.03.265 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

4 (d) Notwithstanding the requirements for admission under (b) of this section, a
 5 charter school that was converted from another public school shall accept applicants
 6 for admission in the following order of priority on a space-available basis:

7 (1) students who were enrolled in the school before the school was
 8 converted to a charter school;

9 (2) students who reside in the attendance area of the school;

10 (3) all other applicants.

11 * **Sec. 6.** AS 14.17.470 is amended to read:

12 **Sec. 14.17.470. Base student allocation. Except as provided in (b) of this**
 13 **section, the** [THE] base student allocation is \$5,680.

14 * **Sec. 7.** AS 14.17.470 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

15 (b) The base student allocation for a charter school shall be adjusted by adding
 16 10 percent of the amount of the base student allocation under (a) of this section to the
 17 base student allocation for the charter school.

18 * **Sec. 8.** Section 3, ch. 91, SLA 2010, is repealed.