

SENATE BILL NO. 344

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

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
18 process that complies with the latest Principles and Standards for Quality Charter
19 School 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 (ii) A local school board may accept charter proposals until February
 2 twenty-eighth of each year and shall provide written notification of its final
 3 decision to the chartering group. Notifications of charter proposals denied shall
 4 include written explanation of the reasons for such denial.

5 * * *

6 ~~(2) Such formal review and action does not require final approval or~~
 7 ~~disapproval of such charter school proposal within thirty days, but within such time~~
 8 ~~the local school board shall indicate whether it is interested in working with the~~
 9 ~~charter school group on its proposal and what specific time line and procedures the~~
 10 ~~local school board will follow prior to coming to a final decision. If the local school~~
 11 ~~board expresses within thirty days no interest in working with the group, or if The~~
 12 ~~local school board shall make public through its website, and in printed form~~
 13 ~~upon request, the guidelines for submitting a charter proposal, all forms~~
 14 ~~required for submission of a charter proposal, the timelines established for~~
 15 ~~accepting and reviewing charter proposals, the process that will be used to~~
 16 ~~review charter proposals submitted to the board, and the name and contact~~
 17 ~~information for a primary point of contact for charter proposals.~~ If no final
 18 decision is received within ~~sixty~~ **ninety** days after the submission of the proposal,
 19 then the chartering group may submit its proposal to the state board for its review.
 20 The local board shall make public the process used to review any charter proposals
 21 received.

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

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**
15 **decisions made relative to the renewal or nonrenewal of a school's charter not**
16 **later than January thirty-first of the year in which the charter would expire.**
17 **A notification that a charter will not be renewed shall include written**
18 **explanation of the reasons for such non-renewal.** Pursuant to Subsection C of this
19 Section and using such annual review process, a charter may be revoked for failure
20 to meet agreed-upon academic 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**
25 **with the criteria and procedures that will be used when considering whether to**
26 **renew a 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**
29 **and district accountability system, has demonstrated growth in student**
30 **academic achievement for the three preceding schools years, and has had no**

