



April 6, 1999

**ENGROSSED
SENATE BILL No. 481**

DIGEST OF SB 481 (Updated March 29, 1999 1:30 pm - DI 02)

Citations Affected: IC 20-5.5; IC 20-7.5.

Synopsis: Charter schools. Allows a sponsor to issue a charter to a nonprofit organizer to establish a charter school. Defines a "sponsor" as the governing body of a school corporation. Allows an organizer to appeal to a state review panel if a proposal to establish a charter school is rejected and at least one-third of the members of the governing body to which the proposal was submitted was in favor of the proposal.
(Continued next page)

Effective: Upon passage.

Lubbers, Weatherwax, Rogers

(HOUSE SPONSORS — PORTER, SCHOLER)

January 19, 1999, read first time and referred to Committee on Education.
February 11, 1999, amended, reported favorably — Do Pass.
February 18, 1999, read second time, amended, ordered engrossed.
February 19, 1999, engrossed.
February 22, 1999, read third time, passed. Yeas 35, nays 14.

HOUSE ACTION

March 3, 1999, read first time and referred to Committee on Education.
April 6, 1999, amended, reported — Do Pass.

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ES 481—LS 7823/DI 71+



Digest Continued

Provides that the decision of the charter school review panel is binding. Sets forth the organization, powers, method of establishment, charter contents, policies, oversight, funding, and restrictions for charter schools. Allows the teachers of a charter school to organize and collectively bargain. Requires 100% of the teachers in a charter school to hold a license to teach in a public school. Provides that if a school corporation eliminates a teaching position in a noncharter school because of a charter school, the legal or contractual provisions, if any, otherwise applicable to a teacher continue to apply to that teacher. Provides a procedure for the conversion of an existing public school to a charter school that includes teacher and parental approval. Allows two or more school corporations to jointly grant a charter to establish a regional charter school. Provides that no more than sixty charter schools may be established in Indiana.

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April 6, 1999

First Regular Session 111th General Assembly (1999)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 1998 General Assembly.

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL No. 481

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 20-5.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS
2 A NEW ARTICLE TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON
3 PASSAGE]:
4 **ARTICLE 5.5. CHARTER SCHOOLS**
5 **Chapter 1. Definitions**
6 **Sec. 1. The definitions in this chapter apply throughout this**
7 **article.**
8 **Sec. 2. "Board" refers to the Indiana state board of education**
9 **established by IC 20-1-1-1.**
10 **Sec. 3. "Charter" means a contract between an organizer and**
11 **a sponsor for the establishment of a charter school.**
12 **Sec. 4. "Charter school" means a public elementary school or**
13 **secondary school established under this article that:**
14 **(1) is nonsectarian and nonreligious;**
15 **(2) does not provide homeschool instruction;**
16 **(3) is not a virtual school; and**

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(4) operates under a charter.

Sec. 5. "Department" refers to the department of education established by IC 20-1-1.1-2.

Sec. 6. "Elementary school" has the meaning set forth in IC 20-10.1-1-15.

Sec. 7. "Governing body" has the meaning set forth in IC 20-5-1-3(b).

Sec. 8. "Homeschool instruction" means instruction that:

- (1) a parent establishes, organizes, and directs for education of the parent's child; and
- (2) provides instruction equivalent to that given in the public schools.

Sec. 9. "Organizer" refers to a nonprofit group or entity that enters into a contract under this article to operate a charter school.

Sec. 10. "Parent" has the meaning set forth in IC 20-1-1.8-8.

Sec. 11. "Proposal" refers to a proposal from an organizer to establish a charter school.

Sec. 12. "Public school" has the meaning set forth in IC 20-10.1-1-2.

Sec. 13. "Regional charter school" means a charter school established jointly by two (2) or more school corporations.

Sec. 14. "School corporation" has the meaning set forth in IC 20-5-1-3(a).

Sec. 15. "Secondary school" refers to a high school (as defined in IC 20-10.1-1-16).

Sec. 16. "Sponsor" means the following:

- (1) For a charter school, a governing body.
- (2) For a regional charter school, two (2) or more governing bodies acting jointly.

Sec. 17. "Teacher" means a school employee (as defined in IC 20-7.5-1-2(e)).

Chapter 2. Description

Sec. 1. A charter school may be established under this article to provide innovative, research based, and autonomous programs that do the following:

- (1) Serve the different learning styles and needs of public school students to better meet the needs of public school students.
- (2) Offer public school students appropriate and innovative choices that have the potential to be replicated in other public schools.
- (3) Afford varied opportunities for professional educators.

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(4) Allow public schools freedom and flexibility in exchange for exceptional levels of accountability.

(5) Provide parents, students, community members, and local entities with an expanded opportunity for involvement in the public school system.

Sec. 2. A charter school is subject to all federal and state laws and constitutional provisions that prohibit discrimination on the basis of the following:

- (1) Disability.**
- (2) Race.**
- (3) Color.**
- (4) Gender.**
- (5) National origin.**
- (6) Religion.**
- (7) Ancestry.**

Sec. 3. This article may not be construed to waive, modify, or otherwise affect the terms of a collective bargaining agreement negotiated under IC 20-7.5.

Chapter 3. Establishment

Sec. 1. A sponsor may grant a charter to an organizer to operate a charter school under this article.

Sec. 2. A sponsor may grant a charter only to an organizer that is a nonprofit organization that meets the following requirements:

- (1) Education is a major purpose of the organization.**
- (2) If the organization is a corporation, the organization is a nonprofit corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.**
- (3) The organization is not organized or operated for the private benefit or gain of any member, trustee, shareholder, employee, or associate. For purposes of this subdivision, the term "private benefit or gain" does not include reasonable compensation paid to an employee for work or services actually performed.**
- (4) The organization's constitution, chapter, articles, or bylaws contain a clause that provides that upon dissolution all remaining assets shall be used for nonprofit educational purposes.**

Sec. 3. (a) An organizer may submit to the sponsor a proposal to establish a charter school.

(b) A proposal must contain at least the following information:

- (1) Identification of the organizer.**
- (2) A description of the organizer's organizational structure**

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- 1 **and governance plan.**
 2 **(3) The following information for the proposed charter**
 3 **school:**
 4 **(A) Name.**
 5 **(B) Purposes.**
 6 **(C) Governance structure.**
 7 **(D) Management structure.**
 8 **(E) Educational mission goals.**
 9 **(F) Curriculum and instructional methods.**
 10 **(G) Methods of pupil assessment.**
 11 **(H) Admission policy and criteria, subject to IC 20-5.5-5.**
 12 **(I) School calendar.**
 13 **(J) Age or grade range of pupils to be enrolled.**
 14 **(K) A description of staff responsibilities.**
 15 **(L) A description and the address of the physical plant.**
 16 **(M) Budget and financial plans.**
 17 **(N) Personnel plan, including methods for selection,**
 18 **retention, and compensation of employees.**
 19 **(O) Transportation plan.**
 20 **(P) Discipline program.**
 21 **(Q) Plan for compliance with any applicable desegregation**
 22 **order.**
 23 **(R) The date when the charter school is expected to:**
 24 **(i) begin school operations; and**
 25 **(ii) have students in attendance at the charter school.**
 26 **(S) The arrangement for providing teachers and other staff**
 27 **with health insurance, retirement benefits, liability**
 28 **insurance, and other benefits.**
 29 **(T) A proposed time line that identifies specific activities to**
 30 **achieve the goals of the charter school.**
 31 **(4) The manner in which an annual audit of the program**
 32 **operations of the charter school is to be conducted by the**
 33 **sponsor.**
 34 **(c) If the teachers in a charter school elect to organize and**
 35 **bargain collectively under IC 20-7.5, nothing in this section shall**
 36 **waive, limit, or modify the provisions of IC 20-7.5.**
 37 **Sec. 4. A sponsor that is the governing body of the school**
 38 **corporation in which the proposed charter school is located must**
 39 **comply with the following:**
 40 **(1) Make available to the public copies of the charter school**
 41 **application, or require the organizer to make copies available**
 42 **to the public.**



1 (2) Give notice under IC 5-3-1-2(b) of the public hearing
2 required under this section.

3 (3) Hold a public hearing within reasonable geographic
4 proximity to the location of the proposed charter school, at
5 which testimony must be allowed from the organizer and
6 members of the public.

7 Sec. 5. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), if a governing
8 body grants a charter to establish a charter school, the governing
9 body must provide a noncharter school that students of the same
10 age or grade levels may attend.

11 (b) The department may waive the requirement that a
12 governing body provide a noncharter school under subsection (a)
13 upon the request of the governing body.

14 Sec. 6. The sponsor may revoke the charter of a charter school
15 that does not, by the date specified in the charter:

- 16 (1) begin school operations; and
17 (2) have students in attendance at the charter school.

18 Sec. 7. Before granting a charter under which more than fifty
19 percent (50%) of the students in the school corporation will attend
20 a charter school, a governing body must receive the approval of the
21 department.

22 Sec. 8. (a) The sponsor must notify the department of the
23 following:

- 24 (1) The receipt of a proposal.
25 (2) The acceptance of a proposal.
26 (3) The rejection of a proposal, including the reasons for the
27 rejection, the number of members of the sponsor favoring the
28 proposal, and the number of members of the sponsor not
29 favoring the proposal.

30 (b) The department shall annually do the following:

- 31 (1) Compile the information received under subsection (a)
32 into a report.
33 (2) Submit the report to the general assembly.

34 Sec. 9. If a sponsor rejects a charter school proposal, the
35 organizer may amend the charter school proposal and resubmit the
36 proposal to the same sponsor.

37 Sec. 10. (a) A school that has qualified for the Indiana schools
38 academic improvement program under IC 20-1-1-6.3 may revise
39 its qualification plan for submission under this chapter as a charter
40 school proposal.

41 (b) If a charter school's charter meets the qualifications for the
42 Indiana schools academic improvement program under



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1 IC 20-1-1-6.3 and if the organizer chooses to participate in the
 2 program, the charter school may be designated an Indiana schools
 3 academic improvement program school.

4 Sec. 11. (a) This section applies if:

- 5 (1) a governing body rejects a proposal; and
 6 (2) at least one-third (1/3) of the members of the governing
 7 body favor the proposal.

8 (b) The organizer may appeal the decision of the governing body
 9 to the charter school review panel created under subsection (c).

10 (c) The charter school review panel is created. The members of
 11 the panel are the superintendent of public instruction and two (2)
 12 members of the board who are appointed by the superintendent of
 13 public instruction.

14 (d) Upon the request of an organizer, the panel shall meet to
 15 consider the organizer's proposal and the governing body's reasons
 16 for rejecting the proposal. The panel must allow the organizer and
 17 governing body to participate in the meeting.

18 (e) Following a meeting under subsection (d), the panel shall
 19 issue an opinion to the organizer and the governing body that:

- 20 (1) supports the governing body's rejection of the proposal;
 21 (2) recommends that the governing body approve the
 22 proposal; or
 23 (3) recommends that the organizer amend the proposal and
 24 the governing body approve the amended proposal.

25 The panel shall issue the opinion not later than forty-five (45) days
 26 after the panel receives the request for review.

27 (f) Not later than forty-five (45) days after:

- 28 (1) receiving a recommendation from the panel to approve a
 29 proposal; or
 30 (2) receiving an amended plan from the organizer that
 31 complies with a recommendation of the panel;

32 the governing body shall reconsider the proposal's rejection. The
 33 decision of the charter school review panel is final and binding.

34 **Chapter 4. The Charter**

35 **Sec. 1. A charter must do the following:**

- 36 (1) Be a written instrument.
 37 (2) Be executed by a sponsor and an organizer.
 38 (3) Confer certain rights, franchises, privileges, and
 39 obligations on a charter school.
 40 (4) Confirm the status of a charter school as a public school.
 41 (5) Be granted for:
 42 (A) not less than three (3) years; and



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- 1 **(B) a fixed number of years agreed to by the governing**
2 **body and the organizer.**
- 3 **(6) Provide for:**
- 4 **(A) a review by the sponsor of the charter school's**
5 **performance, including the progress of the charter school**
6 **in achieving the academic goals set forth in the charter, at**
7 **least one (1) time in each five (5) year period while the**
8 **charter is in effect; and**
- 9 **(B) renewal, if the sponsor and the organizer agree to**
10 **renew the charter.**
- 11 **(7) Specify the grounds for the sponsor to:**
- 12 **(A) revoke the charter before the end of the term for which**
13 **the charter is granted; or**
- 14 **(B) not renew a charter.**
- 15 **(8) Set forth the methods by which the charter school is held**
16 **accountable for achieving the educational mission and goals**
17 **of the charter school, including the following:**
- 18 **(A) Evidence of improvement in assessment measures,**
19 **attendance rates, and graduation rates (if appropriate),**
20 **and increased numbers of academic honors diplomas.**
- 21 **(B) Evidence of progress toward reaching the educational**
22 **goals set by the sponsor.**
- 23 **(9) Describe the method to be used to monitor the charter**
24 **school's:**
- 25 **(A) compliance with applicable law; and**
- 26 **(B) performance in meeting targeted educational**
27 **performance.**
- 28 **(10) Specify that the sponsor and the organizer may amend**
29 **the charter during the term of the charter by mutual consent**
30 **and describe the process for amending the charter.**
- 31 **(11) Describe specific operating requirements, including all of**
32 **the matters set forth in the application for the charter.**
- 33 **(12) Specify a date when the charter school will:**
- 34 **(A) begin school operations; and**
- 35 **(B) have students in attendance at the charter school.**
- 36 **(13) Specify that records of a charter school relating to the**
37 **school's operation and charter are subject to inspection and**
38 **copying to the same extent that records of a public school are**
39 **subject to inspection and copying under IC 5-14-3.**
- 40 **(14) Specify that records provided by the charter school to the**
41 **department or sponsor that relate to compliance by the**
42 **operator with the terms of the charter or applicable state or**

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1 federal laws are subject to inspection and copying in
2 accordance with IC 5-14-3.

3 (15) Specify that the charter school is subject to the
4 requirements of IC 5-14-1.5.

5 **Chapter 5. Student Admissions and Enrollment**

6 **Sec. 1. Except as provided in this chapter, a charter school must**
7 **be open to any student who resides in:**

8 (1) the school corporation in which the charter school is
9 located, for a charter school sponsored by a single governing
10 body; or

11 (2) one (1) of the school corporations that sponsors a regional
12 charter school.

13 **Sec. 2. Except as provided in this chapter, a charter school may**
14 **not establish admission policies or limit student admissions in any**
15 **manner in which a public school is not permitted to establish**
16 **admission policies or limit student admissions.**

17 **Sec. 3. (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), a**
18 **charter school must enroll any eligible student who submits a**
19 **timely application for enrollment.**

20 (b) This subsection applies if the number of applications for a
21 program, class, grade level, or building exceeds the capacity of the
22 program, class, grade level, or building. If a charter school receives
23 a greater number of applications than there are spaces for
24 students, each timely applicant must be given an equal chance of
25 being admitted.

26 (c) A charter school may limit new admissions to the charter
27 school to:

28 (1) ensure that a student who attends the charter school
29 during a school year may continue to attend the charter
30 school in subsequent years; and

31 (2) allow the siblings of a student who attends a charter school
32 to attend the charter school.

33 **Sec. 4. A charter school shall periodically provide information**
34 **to the parents of students in the school corporation concerning the**
35 **opportunity for students to enroll in the charter school. The**
36 **charter school shall design and deliver this information in a**
37 **manner to reach the parents of all students, including at risk**
38 **students.**

39 **Sec. 5. (a) This section applies to a student who does not have**
40 **legal settlement (as defined in IC 20-8.1-1-7.1) in a school**
41 **corporation that is the sponsor of a charter school or a regional**
42 **charter school that the student's parent wishes the student to**



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- 1 attend.
- 2 (b) A student may enroll in any charter school or regional
3 charter school in Indiana if the following requirements are met:
- 4 (1) The student's parent does the following:
- 5 (A) Requests that the student be admitted to enroll in the
6 charter school or regional charter school.
- 7 (B) Agrees to provide and pay for transportation of the
8 student to and from the charter school or regional charter
9 school.
- 10 (2) The following jointly agree to enroll the student in the
11 charter school or regional charter school:
- 12 (A) The governing body of the school corporation where
13 the student has legal settlement.
- 14 (B) The governing body of the school corporation that
15 sponsors the charter school or regional charter school.
- 16 (C) The principal of the charter school or regional charter
17 school.
- 18 (c) The following apply to a student described in subsection (a):
- 19 (1) A school corporation is not required to provide
20 transportation for the student to attend the charter school or
21 regional charter school.
- 22 (2) Neither the student nor the student's parent is required to
23 pay transfer tuition for the student to attend the charter
24 school or regional charter school.
- 25 (3) The transferor school corporation in which the student has
26 legal settlement shall pay the student's transfer tuition to the
27 charter school.
- 28 (4) A transfer becomes effective on a date jointly determined
29 by the parent and the affected school corporations.
- 30 **Chapter 6. Employment**
- 31 **Sec. 1. (a) Teachers who work at a charter school are employees**
32 **of the charter school.**
- 33 (b) A charter school may contract for services only to the same
34 extent that any other public school may contract for services.
- 35 **Sec. 2. Individuals shall choose to be teachers at a charter school**
36 **voluntarily, and a charter school shall choose such individuals to**
37 **be its teachers voluntarily.**
- 38 **Sec. 3. Teachers of a charter school may organize and bargain**
39 **collectively under IC 20-7.5.**
- 40 **Sec. 4. After the conversion, teachers in a conversion charter**
41 **school established under IC 20-5.5-11 may elect under IC 20-7.5 to:**
- 42 (1) remain a part of the bargaining unit of the sponsor; and

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(2) be subject to all the provisions of the collective bargaining agreement.

Sec. 5. Not less than one hundred percent (100%) of the teachers in a charter school must hold a license to teach in a public school.

Sec. 6. (a) A charter school shall participate in the following:

(1) The Indiana state teachers' retirement fund in accordance with IC 21-6.1.

(2) The public employees' retirement fund in accordance with IC 5-10.3.

(b) A person who teaches in a charter school is a member of the Indiana state teachers' retirement fund. Service in a charter school is creditable service for purposes of IC 21-6.1.

(c) A person who:

(1) is a local school employee of a charter school; and

(2) is not eligible to participate in the Indiana state teachers' retirement fund;

is a member of the public employees' retirement fund.

(d) The boards of the Indiana state teachers' retirement fund and the public employees' retirement fund shall implement this section through the organizer of the charter school.

Sec. 7. The decision by a sponsor whether to grant a charter shall not be subject to restraint by the collective bargaining agreement.

Sec. 8. As a school corporation grants a charter to a charter school and individuals choose and are chosen by the charter school to teach in the charter school, the school corporation may make personnel adjustments among its teachers in its noncharter schools that it believes are necessary or appropriate to match existing resources with existing needs in its noncharter schools. If, as part of such adjustments, the school corporation eliminates a teaching position within the corporation, the legal or contractual provisions, if any, otherwise applicable to a teacher in one (1) of its noncharter schools whose contract with the school corporation is canceled as a result of the elimination of the position within the school corporation shall continue to apply to that teacher.

Sec. 9. The governing body must grant a transfer of not more than five (5) years to a teacher of a noncharter school in the school corporation who wishes to teach and has been accepted to teach at a charter school within the school corporation or a regional charter school of which the governing body is a sponsor. During the term of the transfer:

(1) the teacher's seniority status under law continues as if the

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1 **teacher were an employee of a noncharter school in the school**
 2 **corporation; and**
 3 **(2) the teacher's years as a charter school employee shall not**
 4 **be considered for purposes of permanent or semipermanent**
 5 **status with the school corporation under IC 20-6.1-4.**

6 **Chapter 7. Fiscal Matters**

7 **Sec. 1. (a) The organizer is the fiscal agent for the charter**
8 **school.**

9 **(b) The organizer has exclusive control of:**

- 10 **(1) funds received by the charter school; and**
- 11 **(2) financial matters of the charter school.**

12 **(c) The organizer shall maintain separate accountings of all**
13 **funds received and disbursed by the charter school.**

14 **Sec. 2. For purposes of computing:**

- 15 **(1) state tuition support; or**
- 16 **(2) state funding for any purpose;**

17 **a charter school student is counted in the same manner as a student**
18 **of the school corporation where the charter school student resides.**

19 **Sec. 3. (a) This section applies to a charter school that has a**
20 **governing body as sponsor of the school.**

21 **(b) The governing body shall distribute the following to the**
22 **organizer:**

- 23 **(1) A proportionate share of tuition support and any other**
24 **funding received from the state for the students enrolled in**
25 **the charter school.**
- 26 **(2) A proportionate share of state and federal funds received**
27 **for students with disabilities or staff services for students with**
28 **disabilities for the students with disabilities enrolled in the**
29 **charter school.**
- 30 **(3) A proportionate share of funds received under federal or**
31 **state categorical aid programs for students who are eligible**
32 **for the federal or state aid enrolled in the charter school.**
- 33 **(4) A proportionate share of local support for the students**
34 **enrolled in the charter school.**

35 **Sec. 4. (a) Not later than the date established by the department**
36 **for determining average daily membership under**
37 **IC 21-3-1.6-1.1(d), the organizer shall submit to the governing**
38 **body of the school corporation in which the charter school is**
39 **located a report of the total number of students enrolled in the**
40 **charter school. Upon receipt of the report, the governing body shall**
41 **distribute to the organizer a proportionate share of federal, state,**
42 **and local support for the students enrolled in the charter school on**

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1 the same schedule that the school corporation receives the funds or
2 on a schedule agreed to by the sponsor and the organizer.

3 (b) This subsection applies to a regional charter school. The
4 governing body of the school corporation in which the charter
5 school is located shall assess the other sponsoring governing bodies
6 an amount equal to the approved per pupil revenues for the
7 students of the other school corporations that attend the regional
8 charter school. The other sponsoring governing bodies shall
9 transfer the revenues to the governing body of the school
10 corporation in which the charter school is located on the same
11 schedule as the sponsoring school corporations receive the revenue
12 or on a schedule agreed to by the sponsoring governing bodies.

13 Sec. 5. Services that a school corporation provides to a charter
14 school, including transportation, may be provided at not more than
15 one hundred three percent (103%) of the actual cost of the services.

16 Sec. 6. An organizer may apply for and accept for a charter
17 school:

- 18 (1) independent financial grants; or
- 19 (2) funds from public or private sources other than the
20 department.

21 Chapter 8. Powers and Exemptions

22 Sec. 1. A charter school may do the following:

- 23 (1) Sue and be sued in its own name.
- 24 (2) For educational purposes, acquire real and personal
25 property or an interest in real and personal property by
26 purchase, gift, grant, devise, or bequest.
- 27 (3) Convey property.
- 28 (4) Enter into contracts in its own name, including contracts
29 for services.

30 Sec. 2. A charter school may not do the following:

- 31 (1) Operate at a site or for grades other than as specified in
32 the charter.
- 33 (2) Charge tuition to any student attending the charter school
34 that is in excess of the tuition currently allowed under law, or
35 impose any mandatory fees upon a student enrolled in the
36 charter school in preschool special education or in
37 kindergarten through grade 12. However, a charter school
38 may:
 - 39 (A) charge fees for the same items or services that a
40 noncharter public school in the school corporation in
41 which the charter school is located may charge fees; and
 - 42 (B) charge tuition for:



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- 1 (i) a preschool program, unless charging tuition for the
- 2 preschool program is barred under federal law; or
- 3 (ii) a latch key program;
- 4 if the charter school provides those programs.
- 5 (3) Be located in a private residence.
- 6 (4) Provide homeschool instruction.

7 **Sec. 3.** For each charter school established under this article, the
 8 charter school and the organizer are accountable to the sponsor for
 9 ensuring compliance with:

- 10 (1) applicable federal and state laws;
- 11 (2) the charter; and
- 12 (3) the Constitution of the State of Indiana.

13 **Sec. 4.** Except as specifically provided in this article and the
 14 statutes listed in section 5 of this chapter, the following do not
 15 apply to a charter school:

- 16 (1) Any Indiana statute applicable to a governing body or
- 17 school corporation.
- 18 (2) A rule or guideline adopted by the Indiana state board of
- 19 education.
- 20 (3) A local regulation or policy adopted by a school
- 21 corporation unless specifically incorporated in the charter.

22 **Sec. 5.** The following statutes and rules and guidelines adopted
 23 under the following statutes apply to a charter school:

- 24 (1) IC 20-1-1.5 (unified accounting system).
- 25 (2) IC 20-1-6 (special education).
- 26 (3) IC 20-5-2-3 (subject to laws requiring regulation by state
- 27 and federal agencies).
- 28 (4) IC 20-6.1-4-15 (void teacher contract when two (2)
- 29 contracts are signed).
- 30 (5) IC 20-6.1-6-11 (nondiscrimination for teacher marital
- 31 status).
- 32 (6) IC 20-6.1-6-13 (teacher freedom of association).
- 33 (7) IC 20-6.1-6-15 (school counselor immunity).
- 34 (8) IC 20-8.1-3 (compulsory education).
- 35 (9) IC 20-8.1-5.1-13, IC 20-8.1-5.1-15, and IC 20-8.1-5.1-15.5
- 36 (student due process and judicial review).
- 37 (10) IC 20-8.1-7 and IC 20-8.1-8 (health and safety measures).
- 38 (11) IC 20-8.1-9-3 (exemption from school fees for eligible
- 39 families and fee reimbursement).
- 40 (12) IC 20-8.1-9-5 (notice to parents concerning financial
- 41 assistance).
- 42 (13) IC 20-8.1-12 (reporting of student violations of law).

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- 1 (14) IC 20-10.1-2-4 and IC 20-10.1-2-6 (patriotic
- 2 commemorative observances).
- 3 (15) IC 20-10.1-16, IC 20-10.1-17, or any other statute, rule,
- 4 or guideline related to standardized testing (assessment
- 5 programs, including remediation under the assessment
- 6 programs).
- 7 (16) IC 20-10.1-22.4 (parental access to education records).
- 8 (17) IC 5-11-1-9 (requiring audit by state board of accounts).

9 Sec. 6. A charter school is subject to bidding and wage
 10 determination laws and all other statutes and rules that apply to
 11 the construction of a public school.

12 Sec. 7. A charter school may not duplicate the following
 13 programs if the programs are established in another school in the
 14 school corporation:

- 15 (1) A cooperative program established under IC 20-10.1-6-7.
- 16 (2) An apprenticeship program other than the program
- 17 specified in subdivision (1).

18 **Chapter 9. Oversight and Revocation**

19 Sec. 1. An organizer that has established a charter school shall
 20 submit an annual report to the department for informational and
 21 research purposes.

22 Sec. 2. An annual report under this chapter must contain the
 23 following information for a charter school:

- 24 (1) Results of all standardized testing.
- 25 (2) A description of the educational methods and teaching
- 26 methods employed.
- 27 (3) Daily attendance records.
- 28 (4) Graduation statistics.
- 29 (5) Student enrollment data, including the following:
 - 30 (A) The number of students enrolled.
 - 31 (B) The number of students expelled.
 - 32 (C) The number of students who discontinued attendance
 - 33 at the charter school and the reasons for the
 - 34 discontinuation.

35 Sec. 3. The sponsor shall oversee a charter school's compliance
 36 with:

- 37 (1) the charter; and
- 38 (2) all applicable law.

39 Sec. 4. Notwithstanding the provisions of the charter, a sponsor
 40 that grants a charter may revoke the charter at any time before the
 41 expiration of the term of the charter if the sponsor determines that
 42 at least one (1) of the following occurs:

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- 1 **(1) The organizer fails to comply with the conditions**
- 2 **established in the charter.**
- 3 **(2) The charter school established by the organizer fails to**
- 4 **meet the educational goals set forth in the charter.**
- 5 **(3) The organizer fails to comply with all applicable laws.**
- 6 **(4) The organizer fails to meet generally accepted government**
- 7 **accounting principles.**
- 8 **(5) One (1) or more grounds for revocation exist as specified**
- 9 **in the charter.**

10 **Sec. 5. A charter school shall report the following to the**

11 **sponsor:**

- 12 **(1) Attendance records.**
- 13 **(2) Student performance data.**
- 14 **(3) Financial information.**
- 15 **(4) Any information necessary to comply with state and**
- 16 **federal government requirements.**
- 17 **(5) Any other information specified in the charter.**

18 **Sec. 6. The organizer of a charter school shall publish an annual**

19 **performance report that provides the information required under**

20 **IC 20-1-21-8 in the same manner that a school corporation**

21 **publishes an annual report under IC 20-1-21.**

22 **Chapter 10. Student Transfers From Charter Schools**

23 **Sec. 1. A public noncharter school that receives a transfer**

24 **student from a charter school may not discriminate against the**

25 **student in any way, including placing the student:**

- 26 **(1) in an inappropriate age group according to the student's**
- 27 **ability;**
- 28 **(2) below the student's abilities; or**
- 29 **(3) in a class where the student has already mastered the**
- 30 **subject matter.**

31 **Chapter 11. Conversion of Existing Schools Into Charter**

32 **Schools**

33 **Sec. 1. An existing public elementary or secondary school may**

34 **be converted into a charter school if the following conditions apply:**

- 35 **(1) At least sixty-seven percent (67%) of the teachers at the**
- 36 **school have signed a petition requesting the conversion.**
- 37 **(2) At least fifty-one percent (51%) of the parents of students**
- 38 **at the school have signed a petition requesting the conversion.**

39 **Sec. 2. The organizers shall submit a proposal under IC 20-5.5-3**

40 **to convert an existing school to a charter school.**

41 **Sec. 3. A conversion charter school must permit the parents of**

42 **a student who was enrolled in the school before the school's**

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conversion to a charter school to:

- (1) remain in the school; or**
- (2) enroll in another school in the school corporation.**

Chapter 12. Regional Charter Schools

Sec. 1. The governing bodies of two (2) or more school corporations may grant a charter to an organizer to operate a regional charter school under this article.

Sec. 2. An organizer may submit to the governing bodies of two (2) or more school corporations a proposal to establish a regional charter school. A proposal must contain, at a minimum, the following information:

- (1) Identification of the organizer.**
- (2) A description of the organizer's organizational structure and governance plan.**
- (3) The following information for the proposed regional charter school:**
 - (A) Name.**
 - (B) Purposes.**
 - (C) Governance structure.**
 - (D) Management structure.**
 - (E) Educational mission goals.**
 - (F) Curriculum and instructional methods.**
 - (G) Methods of pupil assessment.**
 - (H) Admission policy and criteria, subject to IC 20-5.5-5.**
 - (I) School calendar.**
 - (J) Age or grade range of pupils to be enrolled.**
 - (K) A description of staff responsibilities.**
 - (L) A description and the address of the physical plant.**
 - (M) Budget and financial plans.**
 - (N) Personnel plan, including methods for selection, retention, and compensation of employees.**
 - (O) Transportation plan.**
 - (P) Discipline program.**
 - (Q) Plan for compliance with any applicable desegregation order.**
 - (R) The date when the regional charter school is expected to:**
 - (i) begin school operations; and**
 - (ii) have students in attendance at the regional charter school.**
 - (S) The arrangement for providing teachers and other staff with health insurance, retirement benefits, liability**

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- insurance, and other benefits.
- (T) A proposed time line that identifies specific activities to achieve the goals of the charter school.
- (4) A statement that the regional charter school will comply with:
 - (A) this article; and
 - (B) federal and state laws applicable to public bodies or school corporations.
- (5) Identification of the school corporation where the regional charter school will be located.
- (6) The compensation that the school corporations shall pay to the organizer, including the percentage of compensation provided by each school corporation.
- (7) The manner in which an annual audit of the programmatic operations of the regional charter school is to be conducted by the governing bodies.

Sec. 3. (a) The governing bodies of each school corporation that has granted a charter for a regional charter school must act jointly to revoke the charter of a regional charter school that does not by the date specified in the charter:

- (1) begin school operations; and
- (2) have students in attendance at the regional charter school.

(b) If the governing body of one (1) school corporation that has granted a charter for a regional charter school wishes to cease participation in a regional charter school, the governing bodies of the school corporations that wish to continue participation in a regional charter school must grant a new charter to an organizer to operate a regional charter school under this article.

Sec. 4. (a) Each governing body must notify the department of the following concerning a regional charter school:

- (1) The receipt of a proposal.
- (2) The acceptance of a proposal.
- (3) The rejection of a proposal, including the reasons for the rejection, the number of members of the governing body favoring the proposal, and the number of members of the governing body not favoring the proposal.

(b) The department shall annually do the following:

- (1) Compile the information received under subsection (a) into a report.
- (2) Submit the report to the general assembly.

Sec. 5. A proposal to establish a regional charter school must be approved by a majority of the members of each governing body to

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which the proposal was submitted.

Sec. 6. (a) This section applies if:

- (1) a governing body rejects a proposal to establish a regional charter school; and
- (2) at least one-third (1/3) of the members of each governing body to which the proposal was submitted favor the proposal as evidenced by the minutes of each governing body.

(b) The organizer may appeal the decision of the governing bodies to the charter school review panel created under subsection (c).

(c) The charter school review panel is created. The members of the panel are the superintendent of public instruction and two (2) members of the board who are appointed by the superintendent of public instruction.

(d) Upon the request of an organizer, the panel shall meet to consider the organizer's proposal and the governing bodies' reasons for rejecting the proposal. The panel must allow the organizer and governing bodies to participate in the meeting.

(e) Following a meeting under subsection (d), the panel shall issue an advisory opinion to the organizer and the governing bodies that:

- (1) supports the governing bodies' rejection of the proposal;
- (2) recommends that the governing bodies approve the proposal; or
- (3) recommends that the organizer amend the proposal and the governing bodies approve the amended proposal.

The panel shall issue the advisory opinion not later than forty-five (45) days after the panel receives the request for review.

(f) Not later than forty-five (45) days after:

- (1) receiving a recommendation from the panel to approve a proposal; or
- (2) receiving an amended plan from the organizer that complies with a recommendation of the panel;

the governing bodies shall reconsider the proposal's rejection. The decision of the charter school review panel is final.

Sec. 7. A governing body must include a regional charter school in which the school corporation participates when complying with public notice requirements affecting public schools.

Chapter 13. Limitations on Establishing Charter Schools

Sec. 1. In establishing charter schools, a governing body shall give priority to the consideration of applications for charter schools designed to increase the educational opportunities of

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at-risk students.

Sec. 2. The following limitations apply to the number of charter schools that may be established:

(1) Not more than ten (10) charters may be granted before January 1, 2001, and not more than ten (10) additional charters may be granted before January 1, 2002.

(2) Not more than sixty (60) charter schools may be established in Indiana. Of the sixty (60) charter schools, at least sixteen (16) must be designed to increase the educational opportunities of at-risk students.

(3) Not more than two (2) charter schools may be established in a school corporation that has an average daily membership of twenty thousand (20,000) students or less.

(4) Not more than four (4) charter schools may be established in a school corporation that has an average daily membership of more than twenty thousand (20,000) students.

Sec. 3. This chapter does not prohibit a school corporation that has only one (1) school in the school corporation from granting a charter to convert the school into a charter school.

Sec. 4. (a) A governing body that grants a charter school application shall report the action to the department and specify whether the charter school is designed to increase the educational opportunities of at-risk students.

(b) The department shall promptly notify the governing body of each school corporation when the limits on the number of charter schools set forth in this chapter are reached.

SECTION 2. IC 20-7.5-1-2 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 2. As used in this chapter:

(a) "School corporation" means any local public school corporation established under Indiana law and, in the case of public vocational schools or schools for children with disabilities established or maintained by two (2) or more school corporations, shall refer to such schools.

(b) "Governing body" ~~shall mean:~~ **means:**

(1) the board or commission charged by law with the responsibility of administering the affairs of the school corporation; or

(2) the body that administers a charter school established under IC 20-5.5.

(c) "School employer" means:

(1) the governing body of each:

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- 1 (A) school corporation; or
 2 (B) **charter school established under IC 20-5.5**; and
 3 (2) any person or persons authorized to act for the governing body
 4 of the school employer in dealing with its employees.
 5 (d) "Superintendent" shall mean:
 6 (1) the chief administrative officer of any:
 7 (A) school corporation; or
 8 (B) **charter school established under IC 20-5.5**; or
 9 (2) any person or persons designated by the officer or by the
 10 governing body to act in the officer's behalf in dealing with school
 11 employees.
 12 (e) "School employee" means any full time certificated person in the
 13 employment of the school employer. A school employee shall be
 14 considered full time even though the employee does not work during
 15 school vacation periods, and accordingly works less than a full year.
 16 There shall be excluded from the meaning of school employee
 17 supervisors, confidential employees, employees performing security
 18 work and noncertificated employees.
 19 (f) "Certificated employee" means a person:
 20 (1) whose contract with the school corporation requires that ~~he~~
 21 **the person** hold a license or permit from the state board of
 22 education or a commission thereof as provided in IC 20-6.1; or
 23 (2) **employed as a teacher by a charter school established**
 24 **under IC 20-5.5**.
 25 (g) "Noncertificated employee" means any school employee whose
 26 employment is not dependent upon the holding of a license or permit
 27 as provided in IC 20-6.1.
 28 (h) "Supervisor" means any individual who has:
 29 (1) authority, acting for the school corporation, to hire, transfer,
 30 suspend, lay off, recall, promote, discharge, assign, reward, or
 31 discipline school employees;
 32 (2) responsibility to direct school employees and adjust their
 33 grievances; or
 34 (3) responsibility to effectively recommend the action described
 35 in ~~subsections~~ **subdivision** (1) through (2);
 36 that is not of a merely routine or clerical nature but requires the use of
 37 independent judgment. The term includes superintendents, assistant
 38 superintendents, business managers and supervisors, directors with
 39 school corporationwide responsibilities, principals and vice principals,
 40 and department heads who have responsibility for evaluating teachers.
 41 (i) "Confidential employee" means a school employee whose
 42 unrestricted access to confidential personnel files or whose functional



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1 responsibilities or knowledge in connection with the issues involved in
 2 dealings between the school corporation and its employees would make
 3 the confidential employee's membership in a school employee
 4 organization incompatible with the employee's official duties.

5 (j) "Employees performing security work" means any school
 6 employee whose primary responsibility is the protection of personal
 7 and real property owned or leased by the school corporation or who
 8 performs police or quasipolice powers.

9 (k) "School employee organization" means any organization which
 10 has school employees as members and one (1) of whose primary
 11 purposes is representing school employees in dealing with their school
 12 employer, and includes any person or persons authorized to act on
 13 behalf of such organizations.

14 (l) "Exclusive representative" means the school employee
 15 organization which has been certified for the purposes of this chapter
 16 by the board or recognized by a school employer as the exclusive
 17 representative of the employees in an appropriate unit as provided in
 18 section 10 of this chapter, or the person or persons duly authorized to
 19 act on behalf of such representative.

20 (m) "Board" means the Indiana education employment relations
 21 board provided by this chapter.

22 (n) "Bargain collectively" means the performance of the mutual
 23 obligation of the school employer and the exclusive representative to
 24 meet at reasonable times to negotiate in good faith with respect to items
 25 enumerated in section 4 of this chapter and to execute a written
 26 contract incorporating any agreement relating to such matters. Such
 27 obligation shall not include the final approval of any contract
 28 concerning these or any other items. Agreements reached through
 29 collective bargaining are binding as a contract only if ratified by the
 30 governing body of the school corporation and the exclusive
 31 representative. The obligation to bargain collectively does not require
 32 the school employer or the exclusive representative to agree to a
 33 proposal of the other or to make a concession to the other.

34 (o) "Discuss" means the performance of the mutual obligation of the
 35 school corporation through its superintendent and the exclusive
 36 representative to meet at reasonable times to discuss, to provide
 37 meaningful input, to exchange points of view, with respect to items
 38 enumerated in section 5 of this chapter. This obligation shall not,
 39 however, require either party to enter into a contract, to agree to a
 40 proposal, or to require the making of a concession. A failure to reach
 41 an agreement on any matter of discussion shall not require the use of
 42 any part of the impasse procedure, as provided in section 13 of this



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1 chapter. Neither the obligation to bargain collectively nor to discuss
 2 any matter shall prevent any school employee from petitioning the
 3 school employer, the governing body, or the superintendent for a
 4 redress of the employee's grievances either individually or through the
 5 exclusive representative, nor shall either such obligation prevent the
 6 school employer or the superintendent from conferring with any
 7 citizen, taxpayer, student, school employee, or other person considering
 8 the operation of the schools and the school corporation.

9 (p) "Strike" means concerted failure to report for duty, willful
 10 absence from one's position, stoppage of work, or abstinence in whole
 11 or in part from the full, faithful, and proper performance of the duties
 12 of employment, without the lawful approval of the school employer, or
 13 in any concerted manner interfering with the operation of the school
 14 employer for any purpose.

15 (q) "Deficit financing" with respect to any budget year shall mean
 16 expenditures in excess of money legally available to the employer.

17 **SECTION 3. An emergency is declared for this act.**

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SENATE MOTION

Mr. President: I move that Senator Weatherwax be added as coauthor of Senate Bill 481.

LUBBERS

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COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. President: The Senate Committee on Education, to which was referred Senate Bill No. 481, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the Senate with the recommendation that said bill be AMENDED as follows:

Page 2, line 25, delete "an" and insert "**a state educational**".

Page 2, line 25, delete "of higher learning" and insert "**(as defined in IC 20-12-0.5-1)**".

Page 2, line 27, delete "an individual who is:" and insert "**a private college or university with an accredited school of education if the private college or university has received the approval of the board to act as a sponsor.**".

Page 2, delete lines 28 through 30.

Page 3, delete line 36.

Page 3, line 37, delete "(K)" and insert "(J)".

Page 3, line 38, delete "(L)" and insert "(K)".

Page 3, line 39, delete "(M)" and insert "(L)".

Page 3, line 40, delete "(N)" and insert "(M)".

Page 3, line 41, delete "(O)" and insert "(N)".

Page 4, line 1, delete "(P)" and insert "(O)".

Page 4, line 2, delete "(Q)" and insert "(P)".

Page 4, line 3, delete "(R)" and insert "(Q)".

Page 4, line 5, delete "(S)" and insert "(R)".

Page 4, line 8, delete "(T)" and insert "(S)".

Page 4, line 13, delete "governing body" and insert "**sponsor**".

Page 4, between lines 23 and 24, begin a new line block indented and insert:

"(3) Give notice under IC 5-3-1-2(b) of the public hearing required under this section."

Page 4, line 24, delete "(3)" and insert "(4)".

Page 4, line 27, delete "(4)" and insert "(5)".

Page 4, line 32, delete "(5)" and insert "(6)".

Page 4, between lines 40 and 41, begin a new line block indented and insert:

"(2) Give notice under IC 5-3-1-2(b) of the public hearing required under this section."

Page 4, line 41, delete "(2)" and insert "(3)".

Page 5, between lines 34 and 35, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"Sec. 10. A school that has qualified for the Indiana schools academic improvement program under IC 20-1-1-6.3 may revise its qualification plan for submission under this chapter as a charter

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school proposal."

Page 6, line 4, after "for" insert ":

- (A) a review by the sponsor of the charter school's performance, including the progress of the charter school in achieving the academic goals set forth in the charter, at least one (1) time in each five (5) year period while the charter is in effect; and
- (B)".

Page 7, line 9, delete "subsection (b)" and insert "subsections (b) and (c)".

Page 7, delete lines 18 through 20, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"(c) A charter school may limit new admissions to the charter school to:

- (1) ensure that a student who attends the charter school during a school year may continue to attend the charter school in subsequent years; and
- (2) allow the siblings of a student who attends a charter school to attend the charter school."

Page 7, line 33, delete "seventy-five percent (75%)" and insert "eighty percent (80%)".

Page 7, between lines 35 and 36, begin a new line block indented and insert:

- "(3) A teacher who teaches in a core curriculum area of language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies must hold a license to teach in a public school."

Page 7, line 36, delete "(3)" and insert "(4)".

Page 7, line 36, delete "twenty-five percent (25%)" and insert "twenty percent (20%)".

Page 7, line 40, delete "and that are either:" and insert ".".

Page 7, delete lines 41 through 42.

Page 8, delete line 1.

Page 8, line 2, delete "(4)" and insert "(5)".

Page 8, line 2, delete "(3)" and insert "(4)".

Page 8, line 7, delete "(5)" and insert "(6)".

Page 8, line 34, delete "school corporation" and insert "sponsor".

Page 9, delete lines 31 through 42, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"Sec. 3. (a) This section applies to a charter school that has a governing body as sponsor of the school.

(b) The governing body shall distribute the following to the organizer:



(1) A proportionate share of tuition support and any other funding received from the state for the students enrolled in the charter school.

(2) A proportionate share of state and federal funds received for students with disabilities or staff services for students with disabilities for the students with disabilities enrolled in the charter school.

(3) A proportionate share of funds received under federal or state categorical aid programs for students who are eligible for the federal or state aid enrolled in the charter school.

(4) A proportionate share of local support for the students enrolled in the charter school.

Sec. 4. (a) This section applies to a charter school that has a sponsor that is not the governing body of the school corporation in which the charter school is located.

(b) The department shall distribute the following to the organizer:

(1) Tuition support and other state funding for any purpose for students in the charter school.

(2) A proportionate share of state and federal funds received for students with disabilities or staff services for students with disabilities for the students with disabilities enrolled in the charter school.

(3) A proportionate share of funds received under federal or state categorical aid programs for students who are eligible for the federal or state aid enrolled in the charter school.

(c) Not later than the date established by the department for determining average daily membership under IC 21-3-1.6-1.1(d), the organizer shall submit to the governing body of the school corporation in which the charter school is located a report of the total number of students enrolled in the charter school. Upon receipt of the report, the governing body shall distribute to the organizer a proportionate share of local support for the students enrolled in the charter school."

Page 10, delete lines 1 through 2.

Page 10, line 3, delete "6." and insert "5."

Page 10, line 4, delete "must" and insert "may".

Page 10, line 7, delete "7." and insert "6."

Page 11, between lines 21 and 22, begin a new line block indented and insert:

"(9) IC 20-8.1-5.1-13, IC 20-8.1-5.1-15, and IC 20-8.1-5.1-15.5 (student due process and judicial review)."



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Page 11, line 22, delete "(9)" and insert "**(10)**".

Page 11, line 23, delete "(10)" and insert "**(11)**".

Page 11, line 25, delete "(11)" and insert "**(12)**".

Page 11, line 27, delete "(12)" and insert "**(13)**".

Page 11, line 28, delete "(13)" and insert "**(14)**".

Page 11, line 30, delete "(14)" and insert "**(15)**".

Page 11, line 34, delete "(15)" and insert "**(16)**".

Page 11, line 35, delete "(16)" and insert "**(17)**".

Page 12, between lines 35 and 36, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"Sec. 6. The organizer of a charter school shall publish an annual performance report that provides the information required under IC 20-1-21-8 in the same manner that a school corporation publishes an annual report under IC 20-1-21."

Page 13, line 7, delete "fifty percent (50%)" and insert "**fifty-one percent (51%)**".

Page 13, line 9, delete "fifty percent (50%)" and insert "**fifty-one percent (51%)**".

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 481 as introduced.)

WEATHERWAX, Chairperson

Committee Vote: Yeas 7, Nays 4.

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SENATE MOTION

Mr. President: I move that Senate Bill 481 be AMENDED to read as follows:

Page 2, line 23, delete ":" and insert "**a governing body.**".
Page 2, delete lines 24 through 30.

(Reference is to SB 481 as printed February 12, 1999.)

BOWSER

SENATE MOTION

Mr. President: I move that Senate Bill 481 be AMENDED to read as follows:

Page 8, delete lines 5 through 30, begin a new paragraph and insert:
"**Sec. 4. Not less than one hundred percent (100%) of the teachers in a charter school must hold a license to teach in a public school.**".

(Reference is to Senate Bill 481 as printed February 12, 1999.)

BREAUX

SENATE MOTION

Mr. President: I move that Senate Bill 481 be AMENDED to read as follows:

Page 5, after line 41 and before line 42, begin a new paragraph and insert:

"Sec. 11. (a) This section applies if:

- (1) a governing body rejects a proposal; and**
- (2) at least one-third (1/3) of the members of the governing body favor the proposal.**

(b) The organizer may appeal the decision of the governing body to the charter school review panel created under subsection (c).

(c) The charter school review panel is created. The members of the panel are the superintendent of public instruction and two (2) members of the board who are appointed by the superintendent of public instruction.

(d) Upon the request of an organizer, the panel shall meet to consider the organizer's proposal and the governing body's reasons for rejecting the proposal. The panel must allow the organizer and



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governing body to participate in the meeting.

(e) Following a meeting under subsection (d), the panel shall issue an opinion to the organizer and the governing body that:

- (1) supports the governing body's rejection of the proposal;**
- (2) recommends that the governing body approve the proposal; or**
- (3) recommends that the organizer amend the proposal and the governing body approve the amended proposal.**

The panel shall issue the opinion not later than forty-five (45) days after the panel receives the request for review.

(f) Not later than forty-five (45) days after:

- (1) receiving a recommendation from the panel to approve a proposal; or**
- (2) receiving an amended plan from the organizer that complies with a recommendation of the panel;**

the governing body shall reconsider the proposal's rejection. The decision of the charter school review panel is final and binding."

(Reference is to SB 481 as reprinted February 12, 1999.)

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SENATE MOTION

Mr. President: I move that Senator Rogers be added as coauthor of Senate Bill 481.

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COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker: Your Committee on Education, to which was referred Senate Bill 481, has had the same under consideration and begs leave to report the same back to the House with the recommendation that said bill be amended as follows:

Page 1, delete lines 1 through 15, begin a new paragraph and insert:
 "SECTION 1. IC 20-5.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW ARTICLE TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]:

ARTICLE 5.5. CHARTER SCHOOLS

Chapter 1. Definitions

Sec. 1. The definitions in this chapter apply throughout this article.

Sec. 2. "Board" refers to the Indiana state board of education established by IC 20-1-1-1.

Sec. 3. "Charter" means a contract between an organizer and a sponsor for the establishment of a charter school.

Sec. 4. "Charter school" means a public elementary school or secondary school established under this article that:

- (1) is nonsectarian and nonreligious;**
- (2) does not provide homeschool instruction;**
- (3) is not a virtual school; and**
- (4) operates under a charter.**

Sec. 5. "Department" refers to the department of education established by IC 20-1-1.1-2.

Sec. 6. "Elementary school" has the meaning set forth in IC 20-10.1-1-15.

Sec. 7. "Governing body" has the meaning set forth in IC 20-5-1-3(b).

Sec. 8. "Homeschool instruction" means instruction that:

- (1) a parent establishes, organizes, and directs for education of the parent's child; and**
- (2) provides instruction equivalent to that given in the public schools.**

Sec. 9. "Organizer" refers to a nonprofit group or entity that enters into a contract under this article to operate a charter school.

Sec. 10. "Parent" has the meaning set forth in IC 20-1-1.8-8.

Sec. 11. "Proposal" refers to a proposal from an organizer to establish a charter school.

Sec. 12. "Public school" has the meaning set forth in IC 20-10.1-1-2.

Sec. 13. "Regional charter school" means a charter school



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established jointly by two (2) or more school corporations.

Sec. 14. "School corporation" has the meaning set forth in IC 20-5-1-3(a).

Sec. 15. "Secondary school" refers to a high school (as defined in IC 20-10.1-1-16).

Sec. 16. "Sponsor" means the following:

- (1) For a charter school, a governing body.
- (2) For a regional charter school, two (2) or more governing bodies acting jointly.

Sec. 17. "Teacher" means a school employee (as defined in IC 20-7.5-1-2(e)).

Chapter 2. Description

Sec. 1. A charter school may be established under this article to provide innovative, research based, and autonomous programs that do the following:

- (1) Serve the different learning styles and needs of public school students to better meet the needs of public school students.
- (2) Offer public school students appropriate and innovative choices that have the potential to be replicated in other public schools.
- (3) Afford varied opportunities for professional educators.
- (4) Allow public schools freedom and flexibility in exchange for exceptional levels of accountability.
- (5) Provide parents, students, community members, and local entities with an expanded opportunity for involvement in the public school system.

Sec. 2. A charter school is subject to all federal and state laws and constitutional provisions that prohibit discrimination on the basis of the following:

- (1) Disability.
- (2) Race.
- (3) Color.
- (4) Gender.
- (5) National origin.
- (6) Religion.
- (7) Ancestry.

Sec. 3. This article may not be construed to waive, modify, or otherwise affect the terms of a collective bargaining agreement negotiated under IC 20-7.5.

Chapter 3. Establishment

Sec. 1. A sponsor may grant a charter to an organizer to operate



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a charter school under this article.

Sec. 2. A sponsor may grant a charter only to an organizer that is a nonprofit organization that meets the following requirements:

- (1) Education is a major purpose of the organization.
- (2) If the organization is a corporation, the organization is a nonprofit corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- (3) The organization is not organized or operated for the private benefit or gain of any member, trustee, shareholder, employee, or associate. For purposes of this subdivision, the term "private benefit or gain" does not include reasonable compensation paid to an employee for work or services actually performed.
- (4) The organization's constitution, chapter, articles, or bylaws contain a clause that provides that upon dissolution all remaining assets shall be used for nonprofit educational purposes.

Sec. 3. (a) An organizer may submit to the sponsor a proposal to establish a charter school.

(b) A proposal must contain at least the following information:

- (1) Identification of the organizer.
- (2) A description of the organizer's organizational structure and governance plan.
- (3) The following information for the proposed charter school:
 - (A) Name.
 - (B) Purposes.
 - (C) Governance structure.
 - (D) Management structure.
 - (E) Educational mission goals.
 - (F) Curriculum and instructional methods.
 - (G) Methods of pupil assessment.
 - (H) Admission policy and criteria, subject to IC 20-5.5-5.
 - (I) School calendar.
 - (J) Age or grade range of pupils to be enrolled.
 - (K) A description of staff responsibilities.
 - (L) A description and the address of the physical plant.
 - (M) Budget and financial plans.
 - (N) Personnel plan, including methods for selection, retention, and compensation of employees.
 - (O) Transportation plan.
 - (P) Discipline program.



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(Q) Plan for compliance with any applicable desegregation order.

(R) The date when the charter school is expected to:

(i) begin school operations; and

(ii) have students in attendance at the charter school.

(S) The arrangement for providing teachers and other staff with health insurance, retirement benefits, liability insurance, and other benefits.

(T) A proposed time line that identifies specific activities to achieve the goals of the charter school.

(4) The manner in which an annual audit of the program operations of the charter school is to be conducted by the sponsor.

(c) If the teachers in a charter school elect to organize and bargain collectively under IC 20-7.5, nothing in this section shall waive, limit, or modify the provisions of IC 20-7.5.

Sec. 4. A sponsor that is the governing body of the school corporation in which the proposed charter school is located must comply with the following:

(1) Make available to the public copies of the charter school application, or require the organizer to make copies available to the public.

(2) Give notice under IC 5-3-1-2(b) of the public hearing required under this section.

(3) Hold a public hearing within reasonable geographic proximity to the location of the proposed charter school, at which testimony must be allowed from the organizer and members of the public.

Sec. 5. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), if a governing body grants a charter to establish a charter school, the governing body must provide a noncharter school that students of the same age or grade levels may attend.

(b) The department may waive the requirement that a governing body provide a noncharter school under subsection (a) upon the request of the governing body.

Sec. 6. The sponsor may revoke the charter of a charter school that does not, by the date specified in the charter:

(1) begin school operations; and

(2) have students in attendance at the charter school.

Sec. 7. Before granting a charter under which more than fifty percent (50%) of the students in the school corporation will attend a charter school, a governing body must receive the approval of the

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department.

Sec. 8. (a) The sponsor must notify the department of the following:

- (1) The receipt of a proposal.
 - (2) The acceptance of a proposal.
 - (3) The rejection of a proposal, including the reasons for the rejection, the number of members of the sponsor favoring the proposal, and the number of members of the sponsor not favoring the proposal.
- (b) The department shall annually do the following:
- (1) Compile the information received under subsection (a) into a report.
 - (2) Submit the report to the general assembly.

Sec. 9. If a sponsor rejects a charter school proposal, the organizer may amend the charter school proposal and resubmit the proposal to the same sponsor.

Sec. 10. (a) A school that has qualified for the Indiana schools academic improvement program under IC 20-1-1-6.3 may revise its qualification plan for submission under this chapter as a charter school proposal.

(b) If a charter school's charter meets the qualifications for the Indiana schools academic improvement program under IC 20-1-1-6.3 and if the organizer chooses to participate in the program, the charter school may be designated an Indiana schools academic improvement program school.

Sec. 11. (a) This section applies if:

- (1) a governing body rejects a proposal; and
- (2) at least one-third (1/3) of the members of the governing body favor the proposal.

(b) The organizer may appeal the decision of the governing body to the charter school review panel created under subsection (c).

(c) The charter school review panel is created. The members of the panel are the superintendent of public instruction and two (2) members of the board who are appointed by the superintendent of public instruction.

(d) Upon the request of an organizer, the panel shall meet to consider the organizer's proposal and the governing body's reasons for rejecting the proposal. The panel must allow the organizer and governing body to participate in the meeting.

(e) Following a meeting under subsection (d), the panel shall issue an opinion to the organizer and the governing body that:

- (1) supports the governing body's rejection of the proposal;



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(2) recommends that the governing body approve the proposal; or

(3) recommends that the organizer amend the proposal and the governing body approve the amended proposal.

The panel shall issue the opinion not later than forty-five (45) days after the panel receives the request for review.

(f) Not later than forty-five (45) days after:

(1) receiving a recommendation from the panel to approve a proposal; or

(2) receiving an amended plan from the organizer that complies with a recommendation of the panel;

the governing body shall reconsider the proposal's rejection. The decision of the charter school review panel is final and binding.

Chapter 4. The Charter

Sec. 1. A charter must do the following:

(1) Be a written instrument.

(2) Be executed by a sponsor and an organizer.

(3) Confer certain rights, franchises, privileges, and obligations on a charter school.

(4) Confirm the status of a charter school as a public school.

(5) Be granted for:

(A) not less than three (3) years; and

(B) a fixed number of years agreed to by the governing body and the organizer.

(6) Provide for:

(A) a review by the sponsor of the charter school's performance, including the progress of the charter school in achieving the academic goals set forth in the charter, at least one (1) time in each five (5) year period while the charter is in effect; and

(B) renewal, if the sponsor and the organizer agree to renew the charter.

(7) Specify the grounds for the sponsor to:

(A) revoke the charter before the end of the term for which the charter is granted; or

(B) not renew a charter.

(8) Set forth the methods by which the charter school is held accountable for achieving the educational mission and goals of the charter school, including the following:

(A) Evidence of improvement in assessment measures, attendance rates, and graduation rates (if appropriate), and increased numbers of academic honors diplomas.

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- (B) Evidence of progress toward reaching the educational goals set by the sponsor.
- (9) Describe the method to be used to monitor the charter school's:
- (A) compliance with applicable law; and
 - (B) performance in meeting targeted educational performance.
- (10) Specify that the sponsor and the organizer may amend the charter during the term of the charter by mutual consent and describe the process for amending the charter.
- (11) Describe specific operating requirements, including all of the matters set forth in the application for the charter.
- (12) Specify a date when the charter school will:
- (A) begin school operations; and
 - (B) have students in attendance at the charter school.
- (13) Specify that records of a charter school relating to the school's operation and charter are subject to inspection and copying to the same extent that records of a public school are subject to inspection and copying under IC 5-14-3.
- (14) Specify that records provided by the charter school to the department or sponsor that relate to compliance by the operator with the terms of the charter or applicable state or federal laws are subject to inspection and copying in accordance with IC 5-14-3.
- (15) Specify that the charter school is subject to the requirements of IC 5-14-1.5.

Chapter 5. Student Admissions and Enrollment

Sec. 1. Except as provided in this chapter, a charter school must be open to any student who resides in:

- (1) the school corporation in which the charter school is located, for a charter school sponsored by a single governing body; or
- (2) one (1) of the school corporations that sponsors a regional charter school.

Sec. 2. Except as provided in this chapter, a charter school may not establish admission policies or limit student admissions in any manner in which a public school is not permitted to establish admission policies or limit student admissions.

Sec. 3. (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), a charter school must enroll any eligible student who submits a timely application for enrollment.

(b) This subsection applies if the number of applications for a

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program, class, grade level, or building exceeds the capacity of the program, class, grade level, or building. If a charter school receives a greater number of applications than there are spaces for students, each timely applicant must be given an equal chance of being admitted.

(c) A charter school may limit new admissions to the charter school to:

- (1) ensure that a student who attends the charter school during a school year may continue to attend the charter school in subsequent years; and
- (2) allow the siblings of a student who attends a charter school to attend the charter school.

Sec. 4. A charter school shall periodically provide information to the parents of students in the school corporation concerning the opportunity for students to enroll in the charter school. The charter school shall design and deliver this information in a manner to reach the parents of all students, including at risk students.

Sec. 5. (a) This section applies to a student who does not have legal settlement (as defined in IC 20-8.1-1-7.1) in a school corporation that is the sponsor of a charter school or a regional charter school that the student's parent wishes the student to attend.

(b) A student may enroll in any charter school or regional charter school in Indiana if the following requirements are met:

- (1) The student's parent does the following:
 - (A) Requests that the student be admitted to enroll in the charter school or regional charter school.
 - (B) Agrees to provide and pay for transportation of the student to and from the charter school or regional charter school.
- (2) The following jointly agree to enroll the student in the charter school or regional charter school:
 - (A) The governing body of the school corporation where the student has legal settlement.
 - (B) The governing body of the school corporation that sponsors the charter school or regional charter school.
 - (C) The principal of the charter school or regional charter school.

(c) The following apply to a student described in subsection (a):

- (1) A school corporation is not required to provide transportation for the student to attend the charter school or



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regional charter school.

(2) Neither the student nor the student's parent is required to pay transfer tuition for the student to attend the charter school or regional charter school.

(3) The transferor school corporation in which the student has legal settlement shall pay the student's transfer tuition to the charter school.

(4) A transfer becomes effective on a date jointly determined by the parent and the affected school corporations.

Chapter 6. Employment

Sec. 1. (a) Teachers who work at a charter school are employees of the charter school.

(b) A charter school may contract for services only to the same extent that any other public school may contract for services.

Sec. 2. Individuals shall choose to be teachers at a charter school voluntarily, and a charter school shall choose such individuals to be its teachers voluntarily.

Sec. 3. Teachers of a charter school may organize and bargain collectively under IC 20-7.5.

Sec. 4. After the conversion, teachers in a conversion charter school established under IC 20-5.5-11 may elect under IC 20-7.5 to:

- (1) remain a part of the bargaining unit of the sponsor; and
- (2) be subject to all the provisions of the collective bargaining agreement.

Sec. 5. Not less than one hundred percent (100%) of the teachers in a charter school must hold a license to teach in a public school.

Sec. 6. (a) A charter school shall participate in the following:

- (1) The Indiana state teachers' retirement fund in accordance with IC 21-6.1.
- (2) The public employees' retirement fund in accordance with IC 5-10.3.

(b) A person who teaches in a charter school is a member of the Indiana state teachers' retirement fund. Service in a charter school is creditable service for purposes of IC 21-6.1.

(c) A person who:

- (1) is a local school employee of a charter school; and
- (2) is not eligible to participate in the Indiana state teachers' retirement fund;

is a member of the public employees' retirement fund.

(d) The boards of the Indiana state teachers' retirement fund and the public employees' retirement fund shall implement this section through the organizer of the charter school.



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Sec. 7. The decision by a sponsor whether to grant a charter shall not be subject to restraint by the collective bargaining agreement.

Sec. 8. As a school corporation grants a charter to a charter school and individuals choose and are chosen by the charter school to teach in the charter school, the school corporation may make personnel adjustments among its teachers in its noncharter schools that it believes are necessary or appropriate to match existing resources with existing needs in its noncharter schools. If, as part of such adjustments, the school corporation eliminates a teaching position within the corporation, the legal or contractual provisions, if any, otherwise applicable to a teacher in one (1) of its noncharter schools whose contract with the school corporation is canceled as a result of the elimination of the position within the school corporation shall continue to apply to that teacher.

Sec. 9. The governing body must grant a transfer of not more than five (5) years to a teacher of a noncharter school in the school corporation who wishes to teach and has been accepted to teach at a charter school within the school corporation or a regional charter school of which the governing body is a sponsor. During the term of the transfer:

- (1) the teacher's seniority status under law continues as if the teacher were an employee of a noncharter school in the school corporation; and
- (2) the teacher's years as a charter school employee shall not be considered for purposes of permanent or semipermanent status with the school corporation under IC 20-6.1-4.

Chapter 7. Fiscal Matters

Sec. 1. (a) The organizer is the fiscal agent for the charter school.

(b) The organizer has exclusive control of:

- (1) funds received by the charter school; and
- (2) financial matters of the charter school.

(c) The organizer shall maintain separate accountings of all funds received and disbursed by the charter school.

Sec. 2. For purposes of computing:

- (1) state tuition support; or
- (2) state funding for any purpose;

a charter school student is counted in the same manner as a student of the school corporation where the charter school student resides.

Sec. 3. (a) This section applies to a charter school that has a governing body as sponsor of the school.



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(b) The governing body shall distribute the following to the organizer:

- (1) A proportionate share of tuition support and any other funding received from the state for the students enrolled in the charter school.
- (2) A proportionate share of state and federal funds received for students with disabilities or staff services for students with disabilities for the students with disabilities enrolled in the charter school.
- (3) A proportionate share of funds received under federal or state categorical aid programs for students who are eligible for the federal or state aid enrolled in the charter school.
- (4) A proportionate share of local support for the students enrolled in the charter school.

Sec. 4. (a) Not later than the date established by the department for determining average daily membership under IC 21-3-1.6-1.1(d), the organizer shall submit to the governing body of the school corporation in which the charter school is located a report of the total number of students enrolled in the charter school. Upon receipt of the report, the governing body shall distribute to the organizer a proportionate share of federal, state, and local support for the students enrolled in the charter school on the same schedule that the school corporation receives the funds or on a schedule agreed to by the sponsor and the organizer.

(b) This subsection applies to a regional charter school. The governing body of the school corporation in which the charter school is located shall assess the other sponsoring governing bodies an amount equal to the approved per pupil revenues for the students of the other school corporations that attend the regional charter school. The other sponsoring governing bodies shall transfer the revenues to the governing body of the school corporation in which the charter school is located on the same schedule as the sponsoring school corporations receive the revenue or on a schedule agreed to by the sponsoring governing bodies.

Sec. 5. Services that a school corporation provides to a charter school, including transportation, may be provided at not more than one hundred three percent (103%) of the actual cost of the services.

Sec. 6. An organizer may apply for and accept for a charter school:

- (1) independent financial grants; or
- (2) funds from public or private sources other than the department.



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Chapter 8. Powers and Exemptions

Sec. 1. A charter school may do the following:

- (1) Sue and be sued in its own name.
- (2) For educational purposes, acquire real and personal property or an interest in real and personal property by purchase, gift, grant, devise, or bequest.
- (3) Convey property.
- (4) Enter into contracts in its own name, including contracts for services.

Sec. 2. A charter school may not do the following:

- (1) Operate at a site or for grades other than as specified in the charter.
- (2) Charge tuition to any student attending the charter school that is in excess of the tuition currently allowed under law, or impose any mandatory fees upon a student enrolled in the charter school in preschool special education or in kindergarten through grade 12. However, a charter school may:

- (A) charge fees for the same items or services that a noncharter public school in the school corporation in which the charter school is located may charge fees; and
- (B) charge tuition for:
 - (i) a preschool program, unless charging tuition for the preschool program is barred under federal law; or
 - (ii) a latch key program;
 if the charter school provides those programs.

- (3) Be located in a private residence.
- (4) Provide homeschool instruction.

Sec. 3. For each charter school established under this article, the charter school and the organizer are accountable to the sponsor for ensuring compliance with:

- (1) applicable federal and state laws;
- (2) the charter; and
- (3) the Constitution of the State of Indiana.

Sec. 4. Except as specifically provided in this article and the statutes listed in section 5 of this chapter, the following do not apply to a charter school:

- (1) Any Indiana statute applicable to a governing body or school corporation.
- (2) A rule or guideline adopted by the Indiana state board of education.
- (3) A local regulation or policy adopted by a school



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corporation unless specifically incorporated in the charter.

Sec. 5. The following statutes and rules and guidelines adopted under the following statutes apply to a charter school:

- (1) IC 20-1-1.5 (unified accounting system).
- (2) IC 20-1-6 (special education).
- (3) IC 20-5-2-3 (subject to laws requiring regulation by state and federal agencies).
- (4) IC 20-6.1-4-15 (void teacher contract when two (2) contracts are signed).
- (5) IC 20-6.1-6-11 (nondiscrimination for teacher marital status).
- (6) IC 20-6.1-6-13 (teacher freedom of association).
- (7) IC 20-6.1-6-15 (school counselor immunity).
- (8) IC 20-8.1-3 (compulsory education).
- (9) IC 20-8.1-5.1-13, IC 20-8.1-5.1-15, and IC 20-8.1-5.1-15.5 (student due process and judicial review).
- (10) IC 20-8.1-7 and IC 20-8.1-8 (health and safety measures).
- (11) IC 20-8.1-9-3 (exemption from school fees for eligible families and fee reimbursement).
- (12) IC 20-8.1-9-5 (notice to parents concerning financial assistance).
- (13) IC 20-8.1-12 (reporting of student violations of law).
- (14) IC 20-10.1-2-4 and IC 20-10.1-2-6 (patriotic commemorative observances).
- (15) IC 20-10.1-16, IC 20-10.1-17, or any other statute, rule, or guideline related to standardized testing (assessment programs, including remediation under the assessment programs).
- (16) IC 20-10.1-22.4 (parental access to education records).
- (17) IC 5-11-1-9 (requiring audit by state board of accounts).

Sec. 6. A charter school is subject to bidding and wage determination laws and all other statutes and rules that apply to the construction of a public school.

Sec. 7. A charter school may not duplicate the following programs if the programs are established in another school in the school corporation:

- (1) A cooperative program established under IC 20-10.1-6-7.
- (2) An apprenticeship program other than the program specified in subdivision (1).

Chapter 9. Oversight and Revocation

Sec. 1. An organizer that has established a charter school shall submit an annual report to the department for informational and



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research purposes.

Sec. 2. An annual report under this chapter must contain the following information for a charter school:

- (1) Results of all standardized testing.
- (2) A description of the educational methods and teaching methods employed.
- (3) Daily attendance records.
- (4) Graduation statistics.
- (5) Student enrollment data, including the following:
 - (A) The number of students enrolled.
 - (B) The number of students expelled.
 - (C) The number of students who discontinued attendance at the charter school and the reasons for the discontinuation.

Sec. 3. The sponsor shall oversee a charter school's compliance with:

- (1) the charter; and
- (2) all applicable law.

Sec. 4. Notwithstanding the provisions of the charter, a sponsor that grants a charter may revoke the charter at any time before the expiration of the term of the charter if the sponsor determines that at least one (1) of the following occurs:

- (1) The organizer fails to comply with the conditions established in the charter.
- (2) The charter school established by the organizer fails to meet the educational goals set forth in the charter.
- (3) The organizer fails to comply with all applicable laws.
- (4) The organizer fails to meet generally accepted government accounting principles.
- (5) One (1) or more grounds for revocation exist as specified in the charter.

Sec. 5. A charter school shall report the following to the sponsor:

- (1) Attendance records.
- (2) Student performance data.
- (3) Financial information.
- (4) Any information necessary to comply with state and federal government requirements.
- (5) Any other information specified in the charter.

Sec. 6. The organizer of a charter school shall publish an annual performance report that provides the information required under IC 20-1-21-8 in the same manner that a school corporation



publishes an annual report under IC 20-1-21.

Chapter 10. Student Transfers From Charter Schools

Sec. 1. A public noncharter school that receives a transfer student from a charter school may not discriminate against the student in any way, including placing the student:

- (1) in an inappropriate age group according to the student's ability;
- (2) below the student's abilities; or
- (3) in a class where the student has already mastered the subject matter.

Chapter 11. Conversion of Existing Schools Into Charter Schools

Sec. 1. An existing public elementary or secondary school may be converted into a charter school if the following conditions apply:

- (1) At least sixty-seven percent (67%) of the teachers at the school have signed a petition requesting the conversion.
- (2) At least fifty-one percent (51%) of the parents of students at the school have signed a petition requesting the conversion.

Sec. 2. The organizers shall submit a proposal under IC 20-5.5-3 to convert an existing school to a charter school.

Sec. 3. A conversion charter school must permit the parents of a student who was enrolled in the school before the school's conversion to a charter school to:

- (1) remain in the school; or
- (2) enroll in another school in the school corporation.

Chapter 12. Regional Charter Schools

Sec. 1. The governing bodies of two (2) or more school corporations may grant a charter to an organizer to operate a regional charter school under this article.

Sec. 2. An organizer may submit to the governing bodies of two (2) or more school corporations a proposal to establish a regional charter school. A proposal must contain, at a minimum, the following information:

- (1) Identification of the organizer.
- (2) A description of the organizer's organizational structure and governance plan.
- (3) The following information for the proposed regional charter school:
 - (A) Name.
 - (B) Purposes.
 - (C) Governance structure.
 - (D) Management structure.



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- (E) Educational mission goals.
- (F) Curriculum and instructional methods.
- (G) Methods of pupil assessment.
- (H) Admission policy and criteria, subject to IC 20-5.5-5.
- (I) School calendar.
- (J) Age or grade range of pupils to be enrolled.
- (K) A description of staff responsibilities.
- (L) A description and the address of the physical plant.
- (M) Budget and financial plans.
- (N) Personnel plan, including methods for selection, retention, and compensation of employees.
- (O) Transportation plan.
- (P) Discipline program.
- (Q) Plan for compliance with any applicable desegregation order.
- (R) The date when the regional charter school is expected to:
 - (i) begin school operations; and
 - (ii) have students in attendance at the regional charter school.
- (S) The arrangement for providing teachers and other staff with health insurance, retirement benefits, liability insurance, and other benefits.
- (T) A proposed time line that identifies specific activities to achieve the goals of the charter school.
- (4) A statement that the regional charter school will comply with:
 - (A) this article; and
 - (B) federal and state laws applicable to public bodies or school corporations.
- (5) Identification of the school corporation where the regional charter school will be located.
- (6) The compensation that the school corporations shall pay to the organizer, including the percentage of compensation provided by each school corporation.
- (7) The manner in which an annual audit of the programmatic operations of the regional charter school is to be conducted by the governing bodies.

Sec. 3. (a) The governing bodies of each school corporation that has granted a charter for a regional charter school must act jointly to revoke the charter of a regional charter school that does not by the date specified in the charter:



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- (1) begin school operations; and
- (2) have students in attendance at the regional charter school.

(b) If the governing body of one (1) school corporation that has granted a charter for a regional charter school wishes to cease participation in a regional charter school, the governing bodies of the school corporations that wish to continue participation in a regional charter school must grant a new charter to an organizer to operate a regional charter school under this article.

Sec. 4. (a) Each governing body must notify the department of the following concerning a regional charter school:

- (1) The receipt of a proposal.
- (2) The acceptance of a proposal.
- (3) The rejection of a proposal, including the reasons for the rejection, the number of members of the governing body favoring the proposal, and the number of members of the governing body not favoring the proposal.

(b) The department shall annually do the following:

- (1) Compile the information received under subsection (a) into a report.
- (2) Submit the report to the general assembly.

Sec. 5. A proposal to establish a regional charter school must be approved by a majority of the members of each governing body to which the proposal was submitted.

Sec. 6. (a) This section applies if:

- (1) a governing body rejects a proposal to establish a regional charter school; and
- (2) at least one-third (1/3) of the members of each governing body to which the proposal was submitted favor the proposal as evidenced by the minutes of each governing body.

(b) The organizer may appeal the decision of the governing bodies to the charter school review panel created under subsection (c).

(c) The charter school review panel is created. The members of the panel are the superintendent of public instruction and two (2) members of the board who are appointed by the superintendent of public instruction.

(d) Upon the request of an organizer, the panel shall meet to consider the organizer's proposal and the governing bodies' reasons for rejecting the proposal. The panel must allow the organizer and governing bodies to participate in the meeting.

(e) Following a meeting under subsection (d), the panel shall issue an advisory opinion to the organizer and the governing bodies



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that:

- (1) supports the governing bodies' rejection of the proposal;
- (2) recommends that the governing bodies approve the proposal; or
- (3) recommends that the organizer amend the proposal and the governing bodies approve the amended proposal.

The panel shall issue the advisory opinion not later than forty-five (45) days after the panel receives the request for review.

(f) Not later than forty-five (45) days after:

- (1) receiving a recommendation from the panel to approve a proposal; or
- (2) receiving an amended plan from the organizer that complies with a recommendation of the panel;

the governing bodies shall reconsider the proposal's rejection. The decision of the charter school review panel is final.

Sec. 7. A governing body must include a regional charter school in which the school corporation participates when complying with public notice requirements affecting public schools.

Chapter 13. Limitations on Establishing Charter Schools

Sec. 1. In establishing charter schools, a governing body shall give priority to the consideration of applications for charter schools designed to increase the educational opportunities of at-risk students.

Sec. 2. The following limitations apply to the number of charter schools that may be established:

- (1) Not more than ten (10) charters may be granted before January 1, 2001, and not more than ten (10) additional charters may be granted before January 1, 2002.
- (2) Not more than sixty (60) charter schools may be established in Indiana. Of the sixty (60) charter schools, at least sixteen (16) must be designed to increase the educational opportunities of at-risk students.
- (3) Not more than two (2) charter schools may be established in a school corporation that has an average daily membership of twenty thousand (20,000) students or less.
- (4) Not more than four (4) charter schools may be established in a school corporation that has an average daily membership of more than twenty thousand (20,000) students.

Sec. 3. This chapter does not prohibit a school corporation that has only one (1) school in the school corporation from granting a charter to convert the school into a charter school.

Sec. 4. (a) A governing body that grants a charter school



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application shall report the action to the department and specify whether the charter school is designed to increase the educational opportunities of at-risk students.

(b) The department shall promptly notify the governing body of each school corporation when the limits on the number of charter schools set forth in this chapter are reached."

Delete pages 2 through 13.

Page 14, delete lines 1 through 18.

Renumber all SECTIONS consecutively.

and when so amended that said bill do pass.

(Reference is to SB 481 as reprinted February 19, 1999.)

PORTER, Chair

Committee Vote: yeas 10, nays 4.

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