

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section
5 27A-7 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27A-7)

7 Sec. 27A-7. Charter submission.

8 (a) A proposal to establish a charter school shall be
9 submitted to the local school board and the State Board for
10 certification under Section 27A-6 of this Code in the form of a
11 proposed contract entered into between the local school board
12 and the governing body of a proposed charter school. The
13 charter school proposal shall include:

14 (1) The name of the proposed charter school, which must
15 include the words "Charter School".

16 (2) The age or grade range, areas of focus, minimum and
17 maximum numbers of pupils to be enrolled in the charter
18 school, and any other admission criteria that would be
19 legal if used by a school district.

20 (3) A description of and address for the physical plant
21 in which the charter school will be located; provided that
22 nothing in the Article shall be deemed to justify delaying
23 or withholding favorable action on or approval of a charter

1 school proposal because the building or buildings in which
2 the charter school is to be located have not been acquired
3 or rented at the time a charter school proposal is
4 submitted or approved or a charter school contract is
5 entered into or submitted for certification or certified,
6 so long as the proposal or submission identifies and names
7 at least 2 sites that are potentially available as a
8 charter school facility by the time the charter school is
9 to open.

10 (4) The mission statement of the charter school, which
11 must be consistent with the General Assembly's declared
12 purposes; provided that nothing in this Article shall be
13 construed to require that, in order to receive favorable
14 consideration and approval, a charter school proposal
15 demonstrate unequivocally that the charter school will be
16 able to meet each of those declared purposes, it being the
17 intention of the Charter Schools Law that those purposes be
18 recognized as goals that charter schools must aspire to
19 attain.

20 (5) The goals, objectives, and pupil performance
21 standards to be achieved by the charter school.

22 (6) In the case of a proposal to establish a charter
23 school by converting an existing public school or
24 attendance center to charter school status, evidence that
25 the proposed formation of the charter school has received
26 the approval of certified teachers, parents and guardians,

1 and, if applicable, a local school council as provided in
2 subsection (b) of Section 27A-8.

3 (7) A description of the charter school's educational
4 program, pupil performance standards, curriculum, school
5 year, school days, and hours of operation.

6 (8) A description of the charter school's plan for
7 evaluating pupil performance, the types of assessments
8 that will be used to measure pupil progress towards
9 achievement of the school's pupil performance standards,
10 the timeline for achievement of those standards, and the
11 procedures for taking corrective action in the event that
12 pupil performance at the charter school falls below those
13 standards.

14 (9) Evidence that the terms of the charter as proposed
15 are economically sound for both the charter school and the
16 school district, a proposed budget for the term of the
17 charter, a description of the manner in which an annual
18 audit of the financial and administrative operations of the
19 charter school, including any services provided by the
20 school district, are to be conducted, and a plan for the
21 displacement of pupils, teachers, and other employees who
22 will not attend or be employed in the charter school.

23 (10) A description of the governance and operation of
24 the charter school, including the nature and extent of
25 parental, professional educator, and community involvement
26 in the governance and operation of the charter school.

1 (11) An explanation of the relationship that will exist
2 between the charter school and its employees, including
3 evidence that the terms and conditions of employment have
4 been addressed with affected employees and their
5 recognized representative, if any. However, a bargaining
6 unit of charter school employees shall be separate and
7 distinct from any bargaining units formed from employees of
8 a school district in which the charter school is located.

9 (12) An agreement between the parties regarding their
10 respective legal liability and applicable insurance
11 coverage.

12 (13) A description of how the charter school plans to
13 meet the transportation needs of its pupils, and a plan for
14 addressing the transportation needs of low-income and
15 at-risk pupils.

16 (14) The proposed effective date and term of the
17 charter; provided that the first day of the first academic
18 year shall be no earlier than August 15 and no later than
19 September 15 of a calendar year, and the first day of the
20 fiscal year shall be July 1.

21 (14.5) Disclosure of any known active civil or criminal
22 investigation by a local, state, or federal law enforcement
23 agency into an organization submitting the charter school
24 proposal or a criminal investigation by a local, state, or
25 federal law enforcement agency into any member of the
26 governing body of that organization. For the purposes of

1 this subdivision (14.5), a known investigation means a
2 request for an interview by a law enforcement agency, a
3 subpoena, an arrest, or an indictment. Such disclosure is
4 required for a period from the initial application
5 submission through 10 business days prior to the
6 authorizer's scheduled decision date.

7 (15) Any other information reasonably required by the
8 State Board of Education.

9 (b) A proposal to establish a charter school may be
10 initiated by individuals or organizations that will have
11 majority representation on the board of directors or other
12 governing body of the corporation or other discrete legal
13 entity that is to be established to operate the proposed
14 charter school, by a board of education or an intergovernmental
15 agreement between or among boards of education, or by the board
16 of directors or other governing body of a discrete legal entity
17 already existing or established to operate the proposed charter
18 school. The individuals or organizations referred to in this
19 subsection may be school teachers, school administrators,
20 local school councils, colleges or universities or their
21 faculty members, public community colleges or their
22 instructors or other representatives, corporations, or other
23 entities or their representatives. The proposal shall be
24 submitted to the local school board for consideration and, if
25 appropriate, for development of a proposed contract to be
26 submitted to the State Board for certification under Section

1 27A-6.

2 (c) The local school board may not without the consent of
3 the governing body of the charter school condition its approval
4 of a charter school proposal on acceptance of an agreement to
5 operate under State laws and regulations and local school board
6 policies from which the charter school is otherwise exempted
7 under this Article.

8 (Source: P.A. 98-739, eff. 7-16-14; 98-1048, eff. 8-25-14;
9 revised 10-1-14.)

10 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
11 becoming law.