

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 678

91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR BLAND.

Pre-filed December 1, 2001, and 1,000 copies ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

2863S.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 160.415, RSMo, relating to charter schools, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the same subject.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 160.415, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 160.415, to read as follows:

160.415. 1. For the purposes of calculation and distribution of state school aid under section 163.031, RSMo, pupils enrolled in a charter school shall be included in the pupil enrollment of the school district within which each pupil resides. Each charter school shall report the names, addresses, and eligibility for free or reduced-price lunch or other categorical aid, of pupils resident in a school district who are enrolled in the charter school to the school district in which those pupils reside and to the state department of elementary and secondary education. Each charter school shall promptly notify the state department of elementary and secondary education and the pupil's school district when a student discontinues enrollment at a charter school.

2. (1) A school district having one or more resident pupils attending a charter school shall pay to the charter school an annual amount equal to the product of the equalized, adjusted operating levy for school purposes for the pupils' district of residence for the current year times the guaranteed tax base per eligible pupil, as defined in section 163.011, RSMo, times the number of the district's resident pupils attending the charter school plus all other state aid attributable to such pupils, including summer school, if applicable, and all aid provided pursuant to section 163.031, RSMo.

(2) The district of residence of a pupil attending a charter school shall also pay to the

charter school any other federal or state aid that the district receives on account of such child.

(3) The amounts provided pursuant to this subsection shall be prorated for partial year enrollment for a pupil.

(4) A school district shall pay the amounts due pursuant to this subsection as the disbursal agent and no later than twenty days following receipt of any such funds.

(5) The per-pupil amount paid by a school district to a charter school shall be reduced by the amount per pupil determined by the state board of education to be needed by the district in the current year for repayment of leasehold revenue bonds obligated pursuant to a federal court desegregation action.

3. If a school district fails to make timely payments of any amount for which it is the disbursal agent, the state department of elementary and secondary education shall authorize payment to the charter school of the amount due pursuant to subsection 2 of this section and shall deduct the same amount from the next state school aid apportionment to the owing school district. If a charter school is paid more or less than the amounts due pursuant to subsection 2 of this section, the amount of overpayment or underpayment shall be adjusted in its next payment by the school district or the department of elementary and secondary education, as appropriate. Any dispute between the school district and a charter school as to the amount owing to the charter school shall be resolved by the department of elementary and secondary education, and the department's decision shall be the final administrative action for the purposes of review pursuant to chapter 536, RSMo.

4. The charter school and a local school board may agree by contract for services to be provided by the school district to the charter school. The charter school may contract with any other entity for services. Such services may include but are not limited to food service, custodial service, maintenance, management assistance, curriculum assistance, media services and libraries and shall be subject to negotiation between the charter school and the local school board or other entity. Documented actual costs of such services shall be paid for by the charter school.

5. A charter school may enter into contracts with community partnerships and state agencies acting in collaboration with such partnerships that provide services to children and their families linked to the school.

6. A charter school shall be eligible for transportation state aid pursuant to section 163.161, RSMo, and shall be free to contract with the local district, or any other entity, for the provision of transportation to the students of the charter school.

7. (1) The proportionate share of state and federal resources generated by students with disabilities or staff serving them shall be paid in full to charter schools enrolling those students by their school district where such enrollment is through a contract for services described in this section. The proportionate share of money generated under other federal or state categorical aid programs shall be directed to charter schools serving such students eligible for that aid.

(2) A charter school district shall provide the special services provided pursuant to section 162.705, RSMo, and may provide the special services pursuant to a contract with a school district or any provider of such services.

8. A charter school may not charge tuition, nor may it impose fees that a school district is prohibited from imposing.

9. A charter school is authorized to incur debt in anticipation of receipt of funds. A charter school may also borrow to finance facilities and other capital items. A school district may incur bonded indebtedness or take other measures to provide for physical facilities and other capital items for charter schools that it sponsors or contracts with. Upon the dissolution of a charter school, any liabilities of the corporation will be satisfied through the procedures of chapter 355, RSMo.

10. Charter schools shall not have the power to acquire property by eminent domain.

11. The governing body of a charter school is authorized to accept grants, gifts or donations of any kind and to expend or use such grants, gifts or donations. A grant, gift or donation may not be accepted by the governing body if it is subject to any condition contrary to law applicable to the charter school or other public schools, or contrary to the terms of the charter.

12. No later than April 1, 2003, the state board of education shall establish a process whereby a charter school may be evaluated for compliance with applicable school-level standards of the Missouri school improvement program review. In addition to any performance study required pursuant to subsection 3 of section 160.410, every charter school located in an urban school district shall demonstrate compliance with the standards established by the state board of education pursuant to this subsection or provide, to the sponsor and the state board of education, documentation of accreditation of such charter school by an independent accrediting agency which accredits one or more non-public schools in this state which has standards which are no lower than the standards established by the state board pursuant to this subsection. Beginning with the 2003-04 school year, a sponsor shall suspend or revoke the charter of any charter school in an urban school district which school fails to provide documentation demonstrating compliance with the requirements of this subsection.