

## **Legislative changes to the Charter Schools Act of 1998**

### 1993 Original charter school law passed

- only existing public schools can convert to charter status
- one- to three-year charter period
- over two-thirds teacher-support requirement
- over two-thirds parent-support requirement
- no limit on the number of charter schools
- charter approval by local and state boards required
- plan for improvement to meet national and state educational goals

### 1995 Charter school law amended

- simple majority vote teacher-support requirement
- charter period extended to five years
- plan for improvement to meet America 2000 national goals and state education goals

### 1998 Charter school law amended

- start-up charter schools authorized
- "blanket exemption" from Title 20, State Board rules, local board policies permissible
- governing body must be made up of majority parents of students at the school
- plan for improvement to meet minimum state standards

### 2000 Charter School law amended

- charter petitioners denied approval by their local boards of education may apply to the State Board of Education
- charter schools required to participate in the State Accountability System

### 2002 Charter School law amended

- clarification of funding
- requirement for local board to provide written explanation for petition denial
- initial term of charter: minimum of 3 years; maximum of 5 years
- removal of provision for "blanket exemption" - petitioner must list specifically identified school laws or rules to be waived and provide rationale
- State Board given authority to draft petition requirements in State Board rule
- majority of parents on the governing board removed from law

### 2004 Charter School law amended

- blanket exemption partially restored.
- The State Board of Education is directed to create a facilities fund for local charter schools and state chartered special schools to establish a per pupil, need based facilities aid program.

### 2005 Charter School law amended

- "blanket exemption" from Title 20, State Board rules, local board policies fully restored

- charter period increased to ten years
- further clarification of funding
- provisions for “charter clusters” within school districts and multiple districts
- additions to allowable preferential student enrollment
- annual report requirements added

#### 2007 Charter School law amended

- system charters established allowing for entire districts to charter
- creates Charter Advisory Committee
- provides transportation and food service funding for start-ups, effective in 2008-2009 school year

#### 2008 Charter School law amended

- 7-member “Charter School Commission” created
- members appointed by State Board of Education on recommendation of Governor, Lt. Governor, and Speaker of the House
- commission given power to authorize charter schools
- commission authorized to award “full” funding to approved charter schools
- allow current charter school employees to participate in the State Health Benefits program
- grant program created that provides financial incentives for donations to charter schools for facilities needs