

**House Study Bill 213 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE  
ON EDUCATION BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON DOLECHECK)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act modifying and establishing charter school programs.  
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 256E.1 Purpose.

2 The purpose of a charter school established pursuant to this  
3 chapter shall be to accomplish the following:

- 4 1. Improve student learning.
- 5 2. Increase learning opportunities for students.
- 6 3. Encourage the use of different and innovative methods of  
7 teaching.
- 8 4. Require the measurement of learning outcomes and create  
9 different and innovative forms of measuring outcomes.
- 10 5. Establish new forms of accountability for schools.
- 11 6. Create new professional opportunities for teachers and  
12 other educators, including the opportunity to be responsible  
13 for the learning program at the school site.
- 14 7. Create different organizational structures for  
15 continuous learner progress.
- 16 8. Allow greater flexibility to meet the education needs of  
17 a diverse and constantly changing student population.
- 18 9. Allow for the allocation of resources in innovative ways  
19 through implementation of specialized school budgets for the  
20 benefit of the schools served.

21 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 256E.2 Definitions.

22 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise  
23 requires:

- 24 1. "*Attendance center*" means a school building that contains  
25 classrooms used for instructional purposes for elementary,  
26 middle, or secondary school students.
- 27 2. "*Authorizing board*" means the school board or the  
28 state board, as applicable, that approved the charter school  
29 application and that is a party to the charter school contract.
- 30 3. "*Charter school*" means a charter school established in  
31 accordance with this chapter.
- 32 4. "*Department*" means the department of education.
- 33 5. "*Education service provider*" means an education  
34 management organization, charter school management  
35 organization, or other person with whom a charter school

1 contracts for educational program implementation or  
2 comprehensive management.

3 6. "*Founding group*" means a person or group of persons that  
4 develops and submits an application for a charter school to an  
5 authorizing board under this chapter.

6 7. "*Governing board*" means the independent board of a  
7 charter school whose members are elected or selected pursuant  
8 to the charter school application and charter school contract.

9 8. "*School board*" means a board of directors regularly  
10 elected by the registered voters of a school district.

11 9. "*State board*" means the state board of education.

12 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 256E.3 Department — duty to monitor.

13 The department shall monitor the effectiveness of charter  
14 schools and shall implement the applicable provisions of this  
15 chapter.

16 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 256E.4 Founding group-school board  
17 model.

18 1. a. A school board that intends to authorize a charter  
19 school within the school district may solicit charter school  
20 applications.

21 b. A founding group may apply to a school board for approval  
22 to establish and operate a charter school within and as a part  
23 of the school district either by establishing a new attendance  
24 center or converting an existing attendance center. The  
25 application shall demonstrate the applicant's academic and  
26 operational vision and plans for the proposed charter school,  
27 demonstrate the applicant's capacity to execute the vision and  
28 plans, and provide the school board a clear basis for assessing  
29 the applicant's plans and capacity.

30 2. The state board shall adopt rules to establish  
31 appropriate application timelines and deadlines for the  
32 submission of charter school applications under this section.

33 3. The instructions for completing an application shall  
34 include or otherwise inform applicants of all of the following:

35 a. The performance framework adopted by the school board

1 for charter school oversight and evaluation requirements in  
2 accordance with sections 256E.10 and 256E.11.

3 *b.* The criteria the school board will use in evaluating  
4 applications.

5 *c.* The requirements concerning the format and content  
6 essential for applicants to demonstrate the capacities  
7 necessary to establish and operate a successful charter school.

8 4. An application submitted under this section shall also  
9 include all of the following items related to the proposed  
10 charter school:

11 *a.* An executive summary.

12 *b.* The mission and vision of the proposed charter school,  
13 including identification of the targeted student population and  
14 the community the school intends to serve.

15 *c.* The location of the proposed charter school or the  
16 proposed geographic area within the school district where the  
17 school is proposed to locate.

18 *d.* Identification of the grades to be served each school  
19 year during the duration of the charter school contract.

20 *e.* Minimum, planned, and maximum enrollment per grade for  
21 each school year during the duration of the charter school  
22 contract.

23 *f.* Evidence of need and community support for the proposed  
24 charter school.

25 *g.* Background information on the members of the founding  
26 group and background information on the governing board  
27 members, administration, and management personnel of the  
28 proposed charter school, if available.

29 *h.* The charter school's proposed operations calendar and  
30 sample daily schedule.

31 *i.* A description of the academic program and identification  
32 of ways the program aligns with state academic standards.

33 *j.* A description of the charter school's instructional  
34 model, including the type of learning environment, class size  
35 and structure, curriculum overview, and teaching methods.

- 1     *k.* The charter school's plan for using internal and external  
2 assessments to measure and report student progress on the  
3 performance framework in accordance with section 256E.10.
- 4     *l.* Plans for identifying and serving students with  
5 disabilities, students who are limited English proficient,  
6 students who are academically failing or below grade level, and  
7 gifted students, including but not limited to compliance with  
8 applicable laws and regulations.
- 9     *m.* A description of cocurricular and extracurricular  
10 programs and how the programs will be funded and delivered.
- 11    *n.* Plans and timelines for student recruitment, enrollment,  
12 and transfers, including enrollment preferences and procedures  
13 for conducting transparent admissions selections, including  
14 admissions lotteries.
- 15    *o.* The proposed code of student conduct, including  
16 applicable procedures and disciplinary sanctions for both  
17 general students and special education students.
- 18    *p.* A chart or description of the charter school's  
19 organizational structure and the duties and powers of each  
20 position or group, including the delineation of authority and  
21 reporting between the governing board, staff, and any related  
22 bodies or external organizations that have a role in managing  
23 the charter school.
- 24    *q.* A staffing chart for the charter school's first year  
25 and a staffing plan for the duration of the charter school  
26 contract.
- 27    *r.* Plans for recruiting and developing school  
28 administrators, staff, and governing board members and the  
29 charter school's employment policies, including performance  
30 evaluation plans.
- 31    *s.* Proposed governing bylaws for the charter school.
- 32    *t.* Identification and explanation of any partnerships or  
33 contractual relationships with an education service provider  
34 that are related to the charter school's operations or mission.
- 35    *u.* The charter school's plans for providing transportation

1 services, food service, and all other operational or ancillary  
2 services.

3 v. Proposed opportunities and expectations for parent  
4 involvement.

5 w. A detailed school start-up plan and a five-year plan,  
6 including all relevant assumptions used, identifying timelines  
7 for charter school finances, budget, and insurance coverage,  
8 facility construction, preparation, and contingencies, and the  
9 identification of persons or positions responsible for each  
10 such item.

11 x. Evidence of anticipated fundraising contributions, if  
12 any.

13 y. If the application includes a proposal that the governing  
14 board contracts with an education service provider, evidence  
15 of the education service provider's success in serving  
16 student populations similar to that which is proposed in the  
17 application and if the education service provider operates  
18 other charter schools, evidence of past performance of such  
19 other charter schools and evidence of the education service  
20 provider's capacity for growth.

21 z. A proposed duration and outline of the charter school  
22 contract, including designation of roles, authority, and duties  
23 of the governing board and the charter school's staff.

24 aa. If the application includes a proposal that the  
25 governing board contracts with an education service provider,  
26 a description of the education service provider's performance  
27 evaluation measures, compensation structure, methods of  
28 contract oversight and dispute resolution, investment  
29 disclosures, and conflicts of interest.

30 5. If the applicant proposes to establish a charter school  
31 within the school district by converting an existing attendance  
32 center of the school district, the school board shall not  
33 approve the application unless the applicant submits evidence  
34 that the attendance center's teachers and parents or guardians  
35 of students enrolled at the existing attendance center voted in

1 favor of the conversion. A vote in favor of conversion under  
2 this subsection requires the support of at least fifty percent  
3 of the teachers employed at the school on the date of the vote  
4 and fifty percent of the parents or guardians voting whose  
5 children are enrolled at the school, provided that a majority  
6 of the parents or guardians eligible to vote participate in the  
7 ballot process. The state board shall establish procedures by  
8 rule for voting under this subsection. A parent or guardian  
9 voting in accordance with this subsection must be a resident  
10 of this state.

11 6. In reviewing and evaluating charter school applications,  
12 the school board shall employ procedures, practices, and  
13 criteria consistent with nationally recognized principles and  
14 standards for reviewing charter school applications. Each  
15 application review shall include thorough evaluation of the  
16 written application, an in-person interview with the applicant,  
17 and an opportunity in a public forum for local residents to  
18 learn about and provide input on each application.

19 7. The school board shall make public the name of any person  
20 that assists the school board in conducting a review of a  
21 charter school application.

22 8. Following review of a charter school application and  
23 completion of the process required under subsection 6, the  
24 school board shall:

25 a. Approve a charter school application only if the  
26 applicant has demonstrated competence in each element of the  
27 school board's approval criteria and the applicant is likely to  
28 open and operate a successful charter school.

29 b. Make application decisions on documented evidence  
30 collected through the application review process.

31 c. Adhere to the policies and criteria that are transparent,  
32 based on merit, and avoid conflicts of interest or any  
33 appearance thereof.

34 9. A charter school application under this section shall  
35 not be approved if the founding group has a pending application

1 with another school district under this section or a pending  
2 application with the state board under section 256E.6.

3 10. A school board shall by a majority vote approve or  
4 deny a charter school application no later than seventy-five  
5 calendar days after the application is received. A school  
6 board that denies an application shall provide notice of  
7 denial to the applicant in writing within thirty days after  
8 board action. The notice shall specify the exact reasons for  
9 denial and provide documentation supporting those reasons.  
10 An approval decision may include, if appropriate, reasonable  
11 conditions that the applicant must meet before a charter  
12 school contract may be executed pursuant to section 256E.7.  
13 An approved charter school application shall not serve as a  
14 charter school contract.

15 11. An unsuccessful charter school applicant may  
16 subsequently reapply to the school board, apply to any other  
17 school board in the state under this section, or apply to the  
18 state board under section 256E.6.

19 12. A decision of the school board relating to an  
20 application under this section is not appealable; however, the  
21 school board shall report any application denial to the state  
22 board within thirty days of the board action.

23 **Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 256E.5 School board-state board model.**

24 1. A school board may create a founding group to apply  
25 to the state board for approval to establish and operate a  
26 charter school within and as a part of the school district by  
27 establishing a new attendance center, creating a new school  
28 within an existing attendance center, or by converting an  
29 existing attendance center. The application shall demonstrate  
30 the founding group's academic and operational vision and plans  
31 for the proposed charter school, demonstrate the founding  
32 group's capacity to execute the vision and plans, and provide  
33 the state board a clear basis for assessing the founding  
34 group's plans and capacity.

35 2. The state board shall adopt rules to establish



1 appropriate application timelines and deadlines for the  
2 submission of charter school applications under this section.

3 3. The instructions for completing an application shall  
4 include or otherwise inform applicants of all of the following:

5 a. The performance framework adopted by the state board  
6 for charter school oversight and evaluation requirements in  
7 accordance with sections 256E.10 and 256E.11.

8 b. The criteria the state board will use in evaluating  
9 applications.

10 c. The requirements concerning the format and content  
11 essential for applicants to demonstrate the capacities  
12 necessary to establish and operate a successful charter school.

13 4. An application submitted under this section shall also  
14 include all of the following items related to the proposed  
15 charter school:

16 a. An executive summary.

17 b. The mission and vision of the proposed charter school,  
18 including identification of the targeted student population and  
19 the community the charter school intends to serve.

20 c. The location of the proposed charter school or the  
21 proposed geographic area within the school district where the  
22 school is proposed to locate.

23 d. Identification of the grades to be served each school  
24 year during the duration of the charter school contract.

25 e. Minimum, planned, and maximum enrollment per grade for  
26 each school year during the duration of the charter school  
27 contract.

28 f. Evidence of need and community support for the proposed  
29 charter school.

30 g. Background information on the members of the founding  
31 group and background information on the governing board,  
32 administration, and management personnel of the proposed  
33 charter school, if available.

34 h. The charter school's proposed operations calendar and  
35 sample daily schedule.

- 1     *i.* A description of the academic program and identification  
2 of ways the program aligns with state academic standards.
- 3     *j.* A description of the charter school's instructional  
4 model, including the type of learning environment, class size  
5 and structure, curriculum overview, and teaching methods.
- 6     *k.* The charter school's plan for using internal and external  
7 assessments to measure and report student progress on the  
8 performance framework in accordance with section 256E.10.
- 9     *l.* Plans for identifying and serving students with  
10 disabilities, students who are limited English proficient,  
11 students who are academically failing or below grade level, and  
12 gifted students, including but not limited to compliance with  
13 applicable laws and regulations.
- 14    *m.* A description of cocurricular and extracurricular  
15 programs and how the programs will be funded and delivered.
- 16    *n.* Plans and timelines for student recruitment, enrollment,  
17 and transfers, including enrollment preferences and procedures  
18 for conducting transparent admissions selections, including  
19 admissions lotteries.
- 20    *o.* The proposed code of student conduct, including  
21 applicable procedures and disciplinary sanctions for both  
22 general students and special education students.
- 23    *p.* A chart or description of the charter school's  
24 organizational structure and the duties and powers of each  
25 position or group, including the delineation of authority and  
26 reporting between the governing board, administration, staff,  
27 and any related bodies or external organizations that have a  
28 role in managing the charter school.
- 29    *q.* A staffing chart for the charter school's first year  
30 and a staffing plan for the duration of the charter school  
31 contract.
- 32    *r.* Plans for recruiting and developing school  
33 administrators, staff, and governing board members and the  
34 charter school's employment policies, including performance  
35 evaluation plans.

- 1     *s.* Proposed governing bylaws for the charter school.
- 2     *t.* Identification and explanation of any partnerships or  
3 contractual relationships with the founding group or any of the  
4 founding group or school board's members that are related to  
5 the charter school's operations or mission.
- 6     *u.* The charter school's plans for providing transportation  
7 services, food service, and all other operational or ancillary  
8 services.
- 9     *v.* Proposed opportunities and expectations for parent  
10 involvement.
- 11    *w.* A detailed school start-up plan and five-year plan,  
12 including all relevant assumptions used, identifying timelines  
13 for charter school finances, budget, and insurance coverage,  
14 facility construction, preparation, and contingencies, and the  
15 identification of persons or positions responsible for each  
16 such item.
- 17    *x.* Evidence of anticipated fundraising contributions, if  
18 any.
- 19    *y.* Evidence of the founding group's success in serving  
20 student populations similar to that which is proposed in the  
21 application and if the founding group operates other charter  
22 schools, evidence of past performance of such other charter  
23 schools and evidence of the founding group's capacity for an  
24 additional charter school.
- 25    *z.* A proposed duration and outline of the charter school  
26 contract, including designation of roles, authority, and duties  
27 of the governing board and the charter school's staff.
- 28    *aa.* A description of the charter school governing board's  
29 performance evaluation measures, compensation structure,  
30 methods of contract oversight and dispute resolution,  
31 investment disclosures and conflicts of interest.
- 32    5. If the founding group proposes to establish a charter  
33 school by converting an existing attendance center of the  
34 school district, the state board shall not approve the  
35 application unless the founding group submits evidence that

1 the attendance center's teachers and parents or guardians of  
2 students enrolled at the existing attendance center voted in  
3 favor of the conversion. A vote in favor of conversion under  
4 this subsection requires the support of at least fifty percent  
5 of the teachers employed at the school on the date of the vote  
6 and fifty percent of the parents or guardians voting whose  
7 children are enrolled at the school, provided that a majority  
8 of the parents or guardians eligible to vote participate in the  
9 ballot process. The state board shall establish procedures by  
10 rule for voting under this subsection. A parent or guardian  
11 voting in accordance with this subsection must be a resident  
12 of this state.

13 6. In reviewing and evaluating charter school applications,  
14 the state board shall employ procedures, practices, and  
15 criteria consistent with nationally recognized principles and  
16 standards for reviewing charter school applications. Each  
17 application review shall include thorough evaluation of the  
18 written application, an in-person interview with the founding  
19 group, and an opportunity in a public forum for local residents  
20 to learn about and provide input on each application.

21 7. Following review of a charter school application and  
22 completion of the process required under subsection 6, the  
23 state board shall:

24 a. Approve a charter school application only if the founding  
25 group has demonstrated competence in each element of the  
26 approval criteria and if the founding group is likely to open  
27 and operate a successful charter school.

28 b. Make application decisions on documented evidence  
29 collected through the application review process.

30 c. Adhere to the policies and criteria that are transparent,  
31 based on merit, and avoid conflicts of interest or any  
32 appearance thereof.

33 8. The state board shall by a majority vote approve or  
34 deny a charter school application no later than seventy-five  
35 calendar days after the application is received. If the state

1 board denies an application, the state board shall provide  
2 notice of denial to the founding group in writing within  
3 thirty days after the state board's action. The notice shall  
4 specify the exact reasons for denial and provide documentation  
5 supporting those reasons. An approval decision may include, if  
6 appropriate, reasonable conditions that the founding group must  
7 meet before a charter school contract may be executed pursuant  
8 to section 256E.7. An approved charter application shall not  
9 serve as a charter school contract.

10 9. A decision of the state board relating to an application  
11 under this section is not appealable.

12 10. An unsuccessful applicant under this section may  
13 subsequently reapply to the state board.

14 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. **256E.6 Founding group-state board**  
15 **model.**

16 1. A founding group may apply to the state board for  
17 approval to establish and operate a charter school within the  
18 boundaries of the state that operates as a new attendance  
19 center independently from a public school district. The  
20 application shall demonstrate the founding group's academic  
21 and operational vision and plans for the proposed charter  
22 school, demonstrate the founding group's capacity to execute  
23 the vision and plans, and provide the state board a clear basis  
24 for assessing the founding group's plans and capacity.

25 2. The state board shall adopt rules to establish  
26 appropriate application timelines and deadlines for the  
27 submission of charter school applications under this section.

28 3. The instructions for completing an application shall  
29 include or otherwise inform applicants of all of the following:

30 a. The performance framework adopted by the state board  
31 for charter school oversight and evaluation requirements in  
32 accordance with sections 256E.10 and 256E.11.

33 b. The criteria the state board will use in evaluating  
34 applications.

35 c. The requirements concerning the format and content

1 essential for applicants to demonstrate the capacities  
2 necessary to establish and operate a successful charter school.

3 4. The applications submitted under this section shall also  
4 include all of the following items related to the proposed  
5 charter school:

6 a. An executive summary.

7 b. The mission and vision of the proposed charter school,  
8 including identification of the targeted student population and  
9 the community the school intends to serve.

10 c. The location of the proposed charter school or the  
11 proposed geographic area within the state where the school is  
12 proposed to locate.

13 d. Identification of the grades to be served each school  
14 year during the duration of the charter school contract.

15 e. Minimum, planned, and maximum enrollment per grade for  
16 each school year during the duration of the charter school  
17 contract.

18 f. Evidence of need and community support for the proposed  
19 charter school.

20 g. Background information on the members of the founding  
21 group and background information on the governing board,  
22 administration, and management personnel of the proposed  
23 charter school, if available.

24 h. The charter school's proposed operations calendar and  
25 sample daily schedule.

26 i. A description of the academic program and identification  
27 of ways the program aligns with state academic standards.

28 j. A description of the charter school's instructional  
29 model, including the type of learning environment, class size  
30 and structure, curriculum overview, and teaching methods.

31 k. The charter school's plan for using internal and external  
32 assessments to measure and report student progress on the  
33 performance framework in accordance with section 256E.10.

34 l. Plans for identifying and serving students with  
35 disabilities, students who are limited English proficient,

1 students who are academically failing or below grade level, and  
2 gifted students, including but not limited to compliance with  
3 applicable laws and regulations.

4 *m.* A description of cocurricular and extracurricular  
5 programs and how the programs will be funded and delivered.

6 *n.* Plans and timelines for student recruitment, enrollment,  
7 and transfers, including enrollment preferences and procedures  
8 for conducting transparent admissions selections, including  
9 admissions lotteries.

10 *o.* The proposed code of student conduct, including  
11 applicable procedures and disciplinary sanctions for both  
12 general students and special education students.

13 *p.* A chart or description of the charter school's  
14 organizational structure and the duties and powers of each  
15 position or group, including the delineation of authority and  
16 reporting between the governing board, staff, and any related  
17 bodies or external organizations that have a role in managing  
18 the charter school.

19 *q.* A staffing chart for the charter school's first year  
20 and a staffing plan for the duration of the charter school  
21 contract.

22 *r.* Plans for recruiting and developing school  
23 administrators, staff, and governing board members and the  
24 charter school's employment policies, including performance  
25 evaluation plans.

26 *s.* Proposed governing bylaws for the charter school.

27 *t.* Identification and explanation of any partnerships or  
28 contractual relationships with an education service provider  
29 that are related to the charter school's operations or mission.

30 *u.* The charter school's plans for providing transportation  
31 services, food service, and all other operational or ancillary  
32 services.

33 *v.* Proposed opportunities and expectations for parent  
34 involvement.

35 *w.* A detailed school start-up plan and five-year plan,

1 including all relevant assumptions used, identifying timelines  
2 for charter school finances, budget, and insurance coverage,  
3 facility construction, preparation, and contingencies, and the  
4 identification of persons or positions responsible for each  
5 such item.

6 *x.* Evidence of anticipated fundraising contributions, if  
7 any.

8 *y.* If the application includes a proposal that the governing  
9 board contracts with an education service provider, evidence  
10 of the education service provider's success in serving  
11 student populations similar to that which is proposed in the  
12 application and if the education service provider operates  
13 other charter schools, evidence of past performance of such  
14 other charter schools and evidence of the education service  
15 provider's capacity for growth.

16 *z.* A proposed duration and outline of the charter school  
17 contract, including designation of roles, authority, and duties  
18 of the governing board and the charter school's staff.

19 *aa.* If the application includes a proposal that the  
20 governing board contracts with an education service provider,  
21 a description of the education service provider's performance  
22 evaluation measures, compensation structure, methods of  
23 contract oversight and dispute resolution, investment  
24 disclosures and conflicts of interest.

25 5. In reviewing and evaluating charter school applications,  
26 the state board shall employ procedures, practices, and  
27 criteria consistent with nationally recognized principles and  
28 standards for reviewing charter school applications. Each  
29 application review shall include thorough evaluation of the  
30 written application, an in-person interview with the applicant,  
31 and an opportunity in a public forum for local residents of the  
32 public school district within which the applicant proposes to  
33 locate the charter school to learn about and provide input on  
34 each application.

35 6. Following review of a charter school application and



1 completion of the process required under subsection 5, the  
2 state board shall:

3     *a.* Approve a charter school application only if the  
4 applicant has demonstrated competence in each element of the  
5 state board's published approval criteria and the applicant is  
6 likely to open and operate a successful charter school.

7     *b.* Make application decisions on documented evidence  
8 collected through the application review process.

9     *c.* Adhere to the policies and criteria that are transparent,  
10 based on merit, and avoid conflicts of interest or any  
11 appearance thereof.

12     7. A charter school application under this section shall  
13 not be approved if the founding group has another pending  
14 application under this section or a pending application with a  
15 school district under section 256E.4.

16     8. The state board shall by a majority vote approve or  
17 deny a charter school application no later than seventy-five  
18 calendar days after the application is received. If the state  
19 board denies an application, the state board shall provide  
20 notice of denial to the applicant in writing within thirty  
21 days after board action. The notice shall specify the exact  
22 reasons for denial and provide documentation supporting those  
23 reasons. An approval decision may include, if appropriate,  
24 reasonable conditions that the applicant must meet before a  
25 charter school contract may be executed pursuant to section  
26 256E.7. An approved charter application shall not serve as a  
27 charter school contract.

28     9. An unsuccessful charter school applicant may  
29 subsequently reapply to the state board or apply to a school  
30 board in the state under section 256E.4.

31     10. A decision of the state board relating to an application  
32 under this section is not appealable.

33     Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. 256E.7 Charter school contract.

34     1. Within the later of thirty days following approval  
35 of a charter school application or upon the satisfaction of

1 all reasonable conditions imposed on the applicant in the  
2 charter school approval, if any, an enforceable and renewable  
3 charter school contract shall be executed between the following  
4 parties setting forth the academic and operational performance  
5 expectations and measures by which the charter school will be  
6 evaluated pursuant to sections 256E.10 and 256E.11 and the  
7 other rights and duties of the parties:

8     *a.* For an application approved under section 256E.4, the  
9 founding group and the school board.

10     *b.* For an application approved under section 256E.5, the  
11 founding group and the state board.

12     *c.* For an application approved under section 256E.6, the  
13 founding group and the state board.

14     2. An initial charter school contract shall be granted for a  
15 term of five school budget years. The charter school contract  
16 shall include the beginning and ending dates of the charter  
17 school contract term. An approved charter school may delay its  
18 opening for a period of time not to exceed one school year in  
19 order to plan and prepare for the charter school's opening. If  
20 the charter school requires an opening delay of more than one  
21 school year, the charter school may request an extension from  
22 the authorizing board.

23     3. Each charter school contract shall be signed by the  
24 president of the authorizing board and the president of the  
25 governing body of the founding group.

26     4. *a.* If the charter school is approved under section  
27 256E.4, the school board, within thirty days of executing  
28 a charter school contract, shall submit to the state board  
29 written notice of the charter school contract execution,  
30 including a copy of the executed charter school contract and  
31 any attachments or appendices.

32     *b.* Within fifteen days of receipt of the charter school  
33 contract or within fifteen days of the execution of a charter  
34 school contract entered into by the state board, the state  
35 board shall notify the department of education and the

1 department of management of the name of the charter school  
2 and any applicable education service provider, the proposed  
3 location of the charter school, and the charter school's first  
4 year projected enrollment.

5 5. A charter school approved under this chapter shall not  
6 commence operations without a valid charter school contract  
7 executed in accordance with this section and approved in an  
8 open session of the authorizing board.

9 6. The contract may provide for requirements or conditions  
10 to govern and monitor the start-up progress of an approved  
11 charter school prior to the opening of the charter school  
12 including but not limited to conditions to ensure that the  
13 charter school meets all building, health, safety, insurance,  
14 and other legal requirements.

15 7. A charter school contract may be amended to govern  
16 multiple charter schools operated by the same applicant and  
17 approved by the same authorizing board. However, each charter  
18 school that is part of a charter school contract shall be  
19 separate and distinct from any other charter school governed by  
20 the contract.

21 8. *a.* For a charter school established under section  
22 256E.4, if the school board that approved the application  
23 wishes to transfer the charter school contract and all contract  
24 requirements to the school board of another public school  
25 district, a request for such a transfer must be filed jointly  
26 by both school boards with the state board. The state board  
27 shall not approve such a transfer except upon the finding of  
28 special circumstances and that such a transfer would serve the  
29 best interests of the charter school's students.

30 *b.* For a charter school established under section 256E.4,  
31 if the school board wishes to transfer its authorization and  
32 oversight duties to the state board, the charter school's  
33 governing board, the school board, and the state board must all  
34 approve the transfer.

35 *c.* For a charter school established under section 256E.5 or

1 256E.6, if the state board wishes to transfer its authorization  
2 and oversight duties to a school board, the charter school's  
3 governing board, the school board, and the state board must all  
4 approve the transfer.

5 Sec. 8. NEW SECTION. 256E.8 **General operating powers and**  
6 **duties.**

7 1. In order to fulfill the charter school's public purpose,  
8 a charter school established under this chapter shall be  
9 organized as a nonprofit education organization and shall  
10 have all the powers necessary for carrying out the terms of  
11 the charter school contract including but not limited to the  
12 following, as applicable:

13 a. Receive and expend funds for charter school purposes.

14 b. Secure appropriate insurance and enter into contracts and  
15 leases.

16 c. Contract with an education service provider for the  
17 management and operation of the charter school so long as the  
18 governing board retains oversight authority over the charter  
19 school.

20 d. Incur debt in anticipation of the receipt of public or  
21 private funds.

22 e. Pledge, assign, or encumber the charter school's assets  
23 to be used as collateral for loans or extensions of credit.

24 f. Solicit and accept gifts or grants for charter school  
25 purposes unless otherwise prohibited by law or by the terms of  
26 its charter school contract.

27 g. Acquire from public or private sources real property for  
28 use as a charter school or a facility directly related to the  
29 operations of the charter school.

30 h. Sue and be sued in the charter school's own name.

31 i. Operate an education program that may be offered by any  
32 noncharter public school or school district.

33 2. A charter school established under this chapter is  
34 exempt from all state statutes and rules and any local rule,  
35 regulation, or policy, applicable to a noncharter school,

1 except that the charter school shall do all of the following:

2     *a.* Meet all applicable federal, state, and local health and  
3 safety requirements and laws prohibiting discrimination on the  
4 basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender  
5 identity, national origin, religion, ancestry, or disability.

6 If approved under section 256E.4 or 256E.5, the charter school  
7 shall be subject to any court-ordered desegregation plan in  
8 effect for the school district at the time the charter school  
9 application is approved.

10     *b.* Operate as a nonsectarian, nonreligious school.

11     *c.* Be free of tuition and application fees to Iowa resident  
12 students between the ages of five and twenty-one years.

13     *d.* Be subject to and comply with chapters 216 and 216A  
14 relating to civil and human rights.

15     *e.* Provide special education services in accordance with  
16 chapter 256B.

17     *f.* Be subject to the same financial audits, audit  
18 procedures, and audit requirements as a school district. The  
19 audit shall be consistent with the requirements of sections  
20 11.6, 11.14, 11.19, and 279.29, and section 256.9, subsection  
21 20, except to the extent deviations are necessary because  
22 of the program at the school. The department, the auditor  
23 of state, or the legislative services agency may conduct  
24 financial, program, or compliance audits.

25     *g.* Be subject to and comply with the provisions of chapter  
26 285 relating to the transportation of students.

27     *h.* Be subject to and comply with the requirements of section  
28 256.7, subsection 21, and the educational standards of section  
29 256.11.

30     *i.* Provide instruction for at least the number of days or  
31 hours required by section 279.10, subsection 1.

32     *j.* Be subject to the construction bidding requirements of  
33 chapter 26.

34     *k.* Comply with the requirements of this chapter.

35     3. A charter school shall employ or contract with teachers

1 as defined in section 272.1, who hold valid licenses with an  
2 endorsement for the type of instruction or service for which  
3 the teachers are employed or under contract.

4 4. A charter school shall not discriminate in its student  
5 admissions policies or practices on the basis of intellectual  
6 or athletic ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, or  
7 status as a person with a disability. However, a charter  
8 school may limit admission to students who are within a  
9 particular range of ages or grade levels or on any other  
10 basis that would be legal if initiated by a school district.  
11 Enrollment priority shall be given to the siblings of students  
12 enrolled in a charter school.

13 5. A charter school shall enroll an eligible student who  
14 submits a timely application unless the number of applications  
15 exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or  
16 building. In this case, students must be accepted by lot.  
17 Upon enrollment of an eligible student, the charter school  
18 shall notify the public school district of residence not later  
19 than March 1 of the preceding school year.

20 6. Each charter school governing board shall be required to  
21 adopt a conflict of interest policy and a code of ethics for  
22 all board members and employees.

23 7. Each charter school governing board shall adopt a policy  
24 regarding the hiring of family members to avoid nepotism in  
25 hiring and supervision. The policy shall include but is not  
26 limited to a disclosure to the governing board of potential  
27 nepotism in hiring and supervision. Any person subject to the  
28 policy with a conflict shall not be involved in the hiring  
29 decision or supervision of a potential employee.

30 8. Individuals compensated by an education service provider  
31 are prohibited from serving as a voting member on the governing  
32 board of any charter school unless the school board or state  
33 board that approved the charter school waives such prohibition.

34 9. If the charter school is operated by an education service  
35 provider, the governing board of the charter school shall have

1 access to all records of the education service provider that  
2 are necessary to evaluate any provision of the contract or  
3 evaluate the education service provider's performance under the  
4 contract.

5 Sec. 9. NEW SECTION. 256E.9 Funding.

6 1. Each student enrolled in a charter school established  
7 under this chapter shall be counted, for state school  
8 foundation purposes, in the student's district of residence  
9 pursuant to section 257.6, subsection 1, paragraph "a",  
10 subparagraph (9). For purposes of this section, residence  
11 means a residence under section 282.1.

12 2. a. The school district of residence shall pay to the  
13 charter school in which the student is enrolled in the manner  
14 required under section 282.18, subsection 7, and pursuant to  
15 the timeline in section 282.20, subsection 3, an amount equal  
16 to the sum of the following:

17 (1) The regular program state cost per pupil for the  
18 previous school year.

19 (2) The teacher salary supplement state cost per pupil for  
20 the previous fiscal year.

21 (3) The professional development supplement state cost per  
22 pupil for the previous fiscal year.

23 (4) The early intervention supplement state cost per pupil  
24 for the previous fiscal year.

25 (5) The area education agency teacher salary supplement  
26 state cost per pupil for the previous fiscal year.

27 (6) The area education agency professional development  
28 supplement state cost per pupil for the previous fiscal year.

29 (7) The state media services cost per pupil for the previous  
30 fiscal year.

31 (8) The special education support services state cost per  
32 pupil for the previous fiscal year.

33 (9) The state educational services cost per pupil for the  
34 previous fiscal year.

35 (10) Any moneys the school district receives as a result

1 of the student's non-English speaking weighting under section  
2 280.4, subsection 3, for the previous school year.

3 (11) Any moneys the school district receives as a result of  
4 the student's enrollment in special education programs.

5 *b.* In addition to moneys received from the school district  
6 of residence, charter schools with teachers and students  
7 eligible for federal funding shall receive the proportionate  
8 share of such funding. If a charter school receives such  
9 funding, the charter school shall comply with all reporting or  
10 other requirements to receive the funding.

11 3. If necessary, and pursuant to rules adopted by the state  
12 board of education, funding amounts required under this section  
13 for the first school year of a new charter school shall be  
14 based on enrollment estimates for the charter school included  
15 in the charter school contract. Initial amounts paid using  
16 estimated enrollments shall be reconciled during the subsequent  
17 payment based on actual enrollment of the charter school during  
18 the first school year.

19 4. The department shall disburse state transportation  
20 funding to a charter public school on the same basis and in the  
21 same manner as such funding is paid to school districts.

22 Sec. 10. NEW SECTION. 256E.10 **Performance framework.**

23 1. The performance provisions within the charter school  
24 contract shall be based on a performance framework adopted by  
25 the authorizing board that clearly sets forth the academic  
26 and operational performance indicators, measures, and metrics  
27 that will guide the evaluation of the charter school by the  
28 authorizing board, without compromising individual student  
29 privacy. The performance framework shall include but is not  
30 limited to indicators, measures, and metrics for all of the  
31 following:

32 *a.* Student academic proficiency.

33 *b.* Student academic growth.

34 *c.* Achievement gaps in both proficiency and growth between  
35 specified populations or groups of students, including groups



1 based on gender, race, poverty, special education status,  
2 limited English proficiency, and gifted status.

3 *d.* Attendance.

4 *e.* Enrollment attrition.

5 *f.* Postsecondary readiness for students in grades nine  
6 through twelve.

7 *g.* Goals specified in the charter school's mission.

8 *h.* Financial performance and sustainability.

9 *i.* Governing board performance and stewardship, including  
10 compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and terms of  
11 the charter contract.

12 2. Annual performance targets shall be agreed upon  
13 between each charter school and the authorizing board. Such  
14 performance targets shall be contained in the charter school  
15 contract and shall be designed to help each charter school  
16 meet applicable federal, state, and local standards. The  
17 performance targets contained in the charter school contract  
18 may be amended by mutual agreement after the charter school is  
19 operating and has collected initial achievement data for the  
20 charter school's students.

21 3. The authorizing board is responsible for collecting,  
22 analyzing, and reporting all data from state assessments and  
23 other state data sources in accordance with the performance  
24 framework. However, all efforts shall be made by all  
25 parties to the charter school contract to eliminate or reduce  
26 duplicative data reporting requirements.

27 4. Multiple charter schools operating under a single  
28 charter school contract shall be required to report their  
29 performance data as separate, individual schools, with each  
30 charter school held independently accountable for performance.

31 5. Each charter school established under this chapter  
32 shall be evaluated and graded by the department pursuant to  
33 the attendance center performance rankings developed pursuant  
34 to 2013 Iowa Acts, ch. 121, §73, or any succeeding evaluation  
35 system the department adopts.

1     Sec. 11. NEW SECTION.   **256E.11 Oversight — corrective**  
2 **action — contract renewal — revocation.**

3     1. The authorizing board shall monitor the performance  
4 and compliance of each charter school the authorizing board  
5 approves, including collecting and analyzing data according to  
6 the charter school contract in order to meet the requirements  
7 of this chapter. Such oversight may include inquiries and  
8 investigation of the charter school so long as the activities  
9 are consistent with the intent of this chapter, adhere to the  
10 terms of the charter school contract, and do not unduly inhibit  
11 the autonomy granted to the charter school. Any performance  
12 report resulting from an inquiry or investigation under this  
13 section shall, upon conclusion of such action, be included in  
14 the annual report required under section 256E.13.

15     2. As part of the charter school contract, the charter  
16 school may be required to submit an annual report to assist  
17 the authorizing board in evaluating the charter school's  
18 performance and compliance with the performance framework.

19     3. In the event that a charter school's performance under  
20 the charter school contract or compliance with applicable  
21 laws or rules is unsatisfactory, the authorizing board shall  
22 notify the charter school of the perceived problem and provide  
23 reasonable opportunity for the school to remedy the problem,  
24 unless the problem warrants revocation, in which case the  
25 revocation provisions of this section apply.

26     4. The authorizing board shall have the authority to take  
27 appropriate corrective actions or impose sanctions, other than  
28 revocation, in response to deficiencies in the charter school's  
29 performance or compliance with applicable laws and rules.  
30 Such actions or sanctions may include requiring the charter  
31 school to develop and execute a corrective action plan within a  
32 specified time period.

33     5. A charter school contract may be renewed for periods of  
34 time not to exceed an additional five years.

35     6. Annually, by June 30, the authorizing board shall

1 issue a charter school performance report and charter school  
2 contract renewal application guidance to each charter school  
3 whose charter school contract will expire during the following  
4 school budget year. The performance report shall summarize the  
5 charter school's performance record to date based on the data  
6 required by the charter school contract and by this chapter  
7 and shall identify concerns that may jeopardize renewal of the  
8 charter school contract if not remedied. The charter school  
9 shall have sixty days to respond to the performance report and  
10 submit any corrections or clarifications for the report.

11 7. The renewal application guidance shall, at a minimum,  
12 include the criteria that will be used when making renewal  
13 decisions and provide an opportunity for the charter school to:

14 a. Present additional evidence, beyond the data contained in  
15 the performance report.

16 b. Describe improvements undertaken or planned for the  
17 charter school.

18 c. Describe the charter school's plans, including any  
19 proposed modifications, for the next charter school contract  
20 term.

21 8. No later than October 1, the governing board of a charter  
22 school seeking renewal shall submit a renewal application to  
23 the authorizing board pursuant to the renewal application  
24 guidance. A renewal or denial shall be approved by resolution  
25 of the authorizing board within sixty days following the filing  
26 of the renewal application.

27 9. Unless eligible for expedited renewal under subsection  
28 14, when reviewing a charter school contract renewal  
29 application, the authorizing board shall:

30 a. Use evidence of the school's performance over the term of  
31 the charter school contract in accordance with the applicable  
32 performance framework.

33 b. Ensure that data used in making renewal decisions is  
34 available to the charter school and the public.

35 c. Provide a report summarizing the evidence that served as

1 a basis for the decision.

2 10. A charter school contract may be revoked at any time  
3 or not renewed if the authorizing board determines that the  
4 charter school did any of the following:

5 a. Committed a material violation of any of the terms,  
6 conditions, standards, or procedures required under the charter  
7 school contract or this chapter.

8 b. Failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward the  
9 performance expectations set forth in the charter school  
10 contract.

11 c. Failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal  
12 management.

13 d. Violated a provision of law from which the charter school  
14 was not exempted.

15 11. Each authorizing board shall develop charter school  
16 contract revocation and nonrenewal standards and procedures  
17 that do all of the following:

18 a. Provide the charter school with a timely notice of the  
19 possibility of revocation or nonrenewal and of the reasons  
20 therefor.

21 b. Allow the charter school a reasonable period of time in  
22 which to prepare a response to any notice received.

23 c. Provide the charter school an opportunity to submit  
24 documents and give testimony challenging the decision to revoke  
25 the charter school contract or the decision to not renew the  
26 contract.

27 d. Allow the charter school the opportunity to hire legal  
28 representation and to call witnesses.

29 e. Permit the audio or video recording of such proceedings.

30 f. Require a final decision to be conveyed in writing to the  
31 charter school.

32 12. A decision to revoke or to not renew a charter school  
33 contract shall be by resolution of the authorizing board  
34 and shall clearly state the reasons for the revocation or  
35 nonrenewal.

1 13. For charter schools established under section 256E.4,  
2 within thirty days of adopting a resolution to renew, not  
3 renew, or revoke a charter school contract, the school board  
4 shall report to the state board the action taken and shall  
5 provide a copy of the resolution to the charter school at the  
6 same time that the resolution is submitted to the state board.

7 14. If a charter school has been evaluated and graded to  
8 be in the exceptional category, or the highest rated category  
9 under a succeeding evaluation system, under the evaluation and  
10 grading required under section 256E.10, subsection 5, for the  
11 immediately preceding two school years, and the charter school  
12 is in compliance with the current charter school contract  
13 and all provisions of this chapter, the charter school's  
14 application renewal under subsection 8 shall be renewed  
15 for an additional period of time equal to the length of the  
16 original charter school contract or the most recent renewal  
17 of the contract, whichever is longer, unless the authorizing  
18 board provides written notice to the charter school of the  
19 authorizing board's rejection of the expedited renewal within  
20 sixty days of the filing of the application. An authorizing  
21 board shall not reject an expedited renewal application unless  
22 the authorizing board finds exceptional circumstances for the  
23 rejection or seeks material changes to the charter school  
24 contract.

25 **Sec. 12. NEW SECTION. 256E.12 Procedures for charter school**  
26 **closure — student enrollment.**

27 1. Prior to any charter school closure decision, the  
28 authorizing board shall develop a charter school closure  
29 protocol to ensure timely notice to parents and guardians,  
30 provide for the orderly transition of students and student  
31 records to new schools, and to provide proper disposition of  
32 school funds, property, and assets in accordance with the  
33 requirements of this chapter. The protocol shall specify  
34 required actions and timelines and identify responsible parties  
35 for each such action.

1     2. In the event of a charter school closure, the assets of  
2 the charter school shall be used first to satisfy outstanding  
3 payroll obligations for employees of the school, then to  
4 creditors of the school, then to the public school district in  
5 which the charter school operated, if applicable, and then to  
6 the state general fund. If the assets of the charter school  
7 are insufficient to pay all obligations of the charter school,  
8 the prioritization of the distribution of assets shall be  
9 determined by the district court.

10     Sec. 13. NEW SECTION. **256E.13 Reports.**

11     1. Each charter school shall prepare and file an annual  
12 report with the department. The department shall prescribe  
13 by rule the required contents of the report, but each such  
14 report shall include information regarding student achievement,  
15 including annual academic growth and proficiency, graduation  
16 rates, and financial performance and sustainability. The  
17 reports are public records and the examination, publication,  
18 and dissemination of the reports are governed by the provisions  
19 of chapter 22.

20     2. The state board shall prepare and file with the general  
21 assembly by December 1, annually, a comprehensive report with  
22 findings and recommendations relating to the charter school  
23 program in the state and whether the charter school program  
24 under this chapter is meeting the goals and purposes of the  
25 program. The report also shall contain, for each charter  
26 school, a copy of the charter school's mission statement,  
27 attendance statistics and dropout rate, aggregate assessment  
28 test scores, projections of financial stability, and the number  
29 and qualifications of teachers and administrators.

30     Sec. 14. Section 256F.3, Code 2019, is amended by adding the  
31 following new subsection:

32     NEW SUBSECTION. 8A. The state board shall not approve a new  
33 charter school under this chapter on or after July 1, 2019.

34     Sec. 15. NEW SECTION. **256F.12 Operation of existing charter**  
35 **schools.**

1 Charter schools established under this chapter prior to July  
2 1, 2019, shall continue to operate under and be subject to the  
3 requirements of this chapter.

4 Sec. 16. Section 257.6, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code  
5 2019, is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

6 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (9) Resident pupils enrolled in a charter  
7 school under chapter 256E or 256F.

8 Sec. 17. Section 257.31, subsection 5, paragraph d, Code  
9 2019, is amended to read as follows:

10 *d.* The closing of a nonpublic school, wholly or in part, or  
11 the opening or closing of a ~~pilot~~ charter school.

12 Sec. 18. Section 282.9, subsection 1, Code 2019, is amended  
13 to read as follows:

14 1. Notwithstanding [sections 275.55A](#), [256E.8](#), [256F.4](#), and  
15 282.18, or any other provision to the contrary, prior to  
16 knowingly enrolling an individual who is required to register  
17 as a sex offender under [chapter 692A](#), but who is otherwise  
18 eligible to enroll in a public school, the board of directors  
19 of a school district shall determine the educational placement  
20 of the individual. Upon receipt of notice that a student who  
21 is enrolled in the district is required to register as a sex  
22 offender under [chapter 692A](#), the board shall determine the  
23 educational placement of the student. The tentative agenda  
24 for the meeting of the board of directors at which the board  
25 will consider such enrollment or educational placement shall  
26 specifically state that the board is considering the enrollment  
27 or educational placement of an individual who is required  
28 to register as a sex offender under [chapter 692A](#). If the  
29 individual is denied enrollment in a school district under this  
30 section, the school district of residence shall provide the  
31 individual with educational services in an alternative setting.

32 Sec. 19. Section 282.18, subsection 4, paragraph b, Code  
33 2019, is amended to read as follows:

34 *b.* For purposes of [this section](#), “*good cause*” means a change  
35 in a child’s residence due to a change in family residence, a

1 change in the state in which the family residence is located,  
2 a change in a child's parents' marital status, a guardianship  
3 or custody proceeding, placement in foster care, adoption,  
4 participation in a foreign exchange program, or participation  
5 in a substance abuse or mental health treatment program, a  
6 change in the status of a child's resident district such as  
7 removal of accreditation by the state board, surrender of  
8 accreditation, or permanent closure of a nonpublic school,  
9 revocation of a charter school contract as provided in section  
10 256E.11 or 256F.8, the failure of negotiations for a whole  
11 grade sharing, reorganization, dissolution agreement or the  
12 rejection of a current whole grade sharing agreement, or  
13 reorganization plan. If the good cause relates to a change  
14 in status of a child's school district of residence, however,  
15 action by a parent or guardian must be taken to file the  
16 notification within forty-five days of the last board action  
17 or within thirty days of the certification of the election,  
18 whichever is applicable to the circumstances.

19 EXPLANATION

20 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
21 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

22 This bill establishes a new charter school program within  
23 the state under new Code chapter 256E and prohibits new charter  
24 schools from being established on or after July 1, 2019,  
25 under the existing charter school program, Code chapter 256F.  
26 Charter schools established under Code chapter 256F prior to  
27 July 1, 2019, shall continue to operate under and be subject to  
28 the requirements of that Code chapter.

29 The bill creates three models by which a charter school may  
30 be established: (1) founding group-school board model, under  
31 which a founding group may apply to a school board for approval  
32 to establish and operate a charter school within and as a part  
33 of the school district either by establishing a new attendance  
34 center or converting an existing attendance center; (2) school  
35 board-state board model, under which a school board may create



1 a founding group to apply to the state board of education for  
2 approval to establish and operate a charter school within  
3 and as a part of the school district by establishing a new  
4 attendance center, creating a new school within an existing  
5 attendance center, or converting an existing attendance  
6 center; and (3) founding group-state board model, under which  
7 a founding group may apply to the state board for approval to  
8 establish and operate a charter school within the boundaries of  
9 the state that operates independently from any public school  
10 district as a new attendance center.

11 The bill defines "founding group" to mean a person or group  
12 of persons that develops and submits an application for a  
13 charter school to an authorizing board. The bill defines  
14 "governing board" to mean the independent board of a charter  
15 school whose members are elected or selected pursuant to the  
16 charter school's application and charter school contract.

17 The bill establishes requirements for charter school  
18 application contents and procedure, requires the state board of  
19 education to adopt rules to establish appropriate application  
20 timelines and deadlines for the submission of charter school  
21 applications, and establishes standards for reviewing charter  
22 school applications by the authorizing board, as specified in  
23 the bill. Each application review includes evaluation of the  
24 written application, an in-person interview with the applicant,  
25 and an opportunity in a public forum for local residents of the  
26 public school district within which the applicant proposes to  
27 locate the charter school to learn about and provide input on  
28 each application.

29 The bill establishes provisions governing the approval  
30 or denial of a charter school application and the timing of  
31 such a decision, including the prohibition on approving an  
32 application if the applicant has another pending charter school  
33 application. The decision of the school board or the state  
34 board as to a charter school application is not appealable.

35 After approval of the charter school application, the

1 applicant and the authorizing board must execute a charter  
2 school contract setting forth the operational performance  
3 expectations and measures by which the charter school will  
4 be evaluated. An initial charter school contract shall be  
5 granted for a term of five school budget years. The contract  
6 may provide for requirements or conditions to govern and  
7 monitor the start-up progress of an approved charter school  
8 prior to the opening of the charter school including but not  
9 limited to conditions to ensure that the charter school meets  
10 all building, health, safety, insurance, and other legal  
11 requirements.

12 A charter school established under the bill has all the  
13 powers necessary for carrying out the terms of the charter  
14 school contract including those powers specified in the bill.  
15 A charter school established under the bill is exempt from  
16 all state statutes and rules and any local rule, regulation,  
17 or policy applicable to a noncharter school, except that  
18 the charter school shall do all of the following: (1) meet  
19 all applicable federal, state, and local health and safety  
20 requirements and laws prohibiting discrimination on the  
21 basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender  
22 identity, national origin, religion, ancestry, or disability;  
23 (2) operate as a nonsectarian, nonreligious school; (3) be  
24 free of tuition and application fees to Iowa resident students  
25 between the ages of 5 and 21 years; (4) be subject to and  
26 comply with Code chapters 216 and 216A relating to civil  
27 and human rights; (5) provide special education services in  
28 accordance with Code chapter 256B; (6) be subject to the same  
29 financial audits, audit procedures, and audit requirements  
30 as a school district; (7) be subject to and comply with the  
31 provisions of Code chapter 285 relating to the transportation  
32 of students; (8) be subject to and comply with the education  
33 program and testing requirements of Code section 256.7(21)  
34 and the educational standards of Code section 256.11; (9)  
35 provide instruction for at least the number of days or hours

1 required by Code section 279.10(1); and (10) be subject to the  
2 construction bidding requirements of Code chapter 26.

3 The bill requires a charter school to employ or contract  
4 with teachers who hold a valid license with an endorsement for  
5 the type of instruction or service for which the teacher is  
6 employed or under contract and establishes requirements for  
7 charter schools relating to enrollment and admissions policies.  
8 Upon enrollment of an eligible student, the charter school is  
9 required to notify the public school district of residence.

10 Each student enrolled in a charter school established  
11 under the bill shall be counted, for state school foundation  
12 purposes, in the student's district of residence. The school  
13 district of residence is then required to pay to the charter  
14 school in which the student is enrolled an amount equal to the  
15 sum of the following: (1) the regular program state cost per  
16 pupil for the previous school year; (2) the teacher salary  
17 supplement state cost per pupil for the previous fiscal year;  
18 (3) the professional development supplement state cost per  
19 pupil for the previous fiscal year; (4) the early intervention  
20 supplement state cost per pupil for the previous fiscal year;  
21 (5) the area education agency teacher salary supplement state  
22 cost per pupil for the previous fiscal year; (6) the area  
23 education agency professional development supplement state cost  
24 per pupil for the previous fiscal year; (7) the state media  
25 services cost per pupil for the previous fiscal year; (8) the  
26 special education support services state cost per pupil for  
27 the previous fiscal year; (9) the state educational services  
28 cost per pupil for the previous fiscal year; (10) any moneys  
29 the school district receives as a result of the student's  
30 non-English speaking weighting for the previous fiscal year;  
31 and (11) any moneys the school district receives as a result of  
32 the student's enrollment in special education programs. The  
33 bill establishes provisions relating to the distribution of  
34 eligible federal funds and disbursement of state transportation  
35 funding to charter schools. The bill also establishes

1 provisions governing the payments to charter schools in the  
2 first year of operation.

3 The bill establishes requirements for the performance  
4 provisions within the charter school contract that will guide  
5 the evaluation of the charter school by the authorizing board.  
6 The authorizing board is required to monitor the performance  
7 and compliance of each charter school it approves, including  
8 collecting and analyzing data according to the charter school  
9 contract in order to meet the requirements of the charter  
10 school contract and the bill. As part of the charter school  
11 contract, the charter school may be required to submit an  
12 annual report to assist the authorizing board in evaluating  
13 the charter school's performance and compliance with the  
14 performance framework.

15 The bill also establishes provisions to govern situations  
16 where a charter school's performance under the charter school  
17 contract or compliance with applicable laws or rules is  
18 unsatisfactory, including the authority to take appropriate  
19 corrective actions, impose sanctions, or revoke the contract.  
20 A charter school contract may be renewed for periods of  
21 time not to exceed an additional five years. The bill also  
22 establishes provisions that govern the renewal process for a  
23 charter school contract, including standards under which the  
24 authorizing board must operate when reviewing a charter school  
25 contract renewal application.

26 The bill requires that, prior to any charter school closure  
27 decision, the authorizing board must develop a charter school  
28 closure protocol to ensure timely notice to parents, provide  
29 for the orderly transition of students and student records to  
30 new schools, and to provide proper disposition of school funds,  
31 property, and assets. The bill also specifies the priority to  
32 be used when satisfying obligations of a charter school after  
33 its closure.

34 Under the bill, each charter school is required to prepare  
35 and file an annual report with the department of education,

1 the contents of which shall be determined by the department  
2 by rule. The state board of education is required to prepare  
3 and file with the general assembly by December 1, annually, a  
4 comprehensive report including items specified in the bill,  
5 along with findings and recommendations relating to the charter  
6 school program in the state and whether the charter school  
7 program is meeting the goals and purposes of the program.