

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

An Act To Create a Public Charter School Program in Maine

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-G, sub-§10-D** is enacted to read:

3
4 **10-D.**

5 **Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §1, sub-§26, ¶F**, as enacted by PL 2007, c. 668, §1, is amended to
6 read:

7
8 F. A municipal or quasi-municipal district responsible for operating public schools that has not
9 reorganized as a regional school unit pursuant to chapter 103A;

10 **Sec. 3. 20-A MRSA §1, sub-§26, ¶G**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 580, §2, is further
11 amended to read:

12
13 G. A municipal school unit, school administrative district, community school district, regional
14 school unit or any other quasi-municipal district responsible for operating public schools that
15 forms a part of an alternative organizational structure approved by the commissioner; and

16 **Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §1, sub-§26, ¶H** is enacted to read:

17
18 H. A charter school authorized by an entity other than a school administrative unit, under chapter
19 112.

20 **Sec. 8. 20-A MRSA c. 112** is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 112

CHARTER SCHOOLS

23 **§ 2401. Definitions**

24 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the
25 following meanings.

26
27 **1. At-risk pupil.** "At-risk pupil" means a pupil who has an economic or academic
28 disadvantage that requires special services and assistance to enable the student to succeed in
29 educational programs. "At-risk pupil" includes, but is not limited to, pupils who are members of
30 economically disadvantaged families, pupils who are identified as having special educational needs,
31 pupils who are limited in English proficiency, pupils who are at risk of dropping out of high school and
32 pupils who do not meet minimum standards of academic proficiency.

33
34 **2. Authorizer.** "Authorizer" means an entity empowered under this chapter to review
35 applications, decide whether to approve or reject applications, enter into charter contracts with
36 applicants, oversee and monitor public charter schools and decide whether to renew, not renew or

1 revoke charter contracts.
2

3 **3. Charter contract.** "Charter contract" means a performance-based contract for a fixed
4 term between a public charter school and an authorizer that describes performance expectations,
5 defines operational responsibilities and outlines the autonomy and accountability for each party to the
6 contract.
7

8 **4. Conversion public charter school.** "Conversion public charter school" means a
9 public charter school that existed as a noncharter public school before becoming a public charter
10 school.
11

12 **5. Education service provider.** "Education service provider" means an education
13 management organization, charter management organization, school design provider or any other
14 partner entity with whom a public charter school intends to contract for education design,
15 implementation or comprehensive management.
16

17 **6. Governing board.** "Governing board" means the independent board of a public charter
18 school that is party to the charter contract with the authorizer and whose members have been elected or
19 selected pursuant to the school's application.
20

21 **7. Local school agency (LEA).** A "Local education agency (LEA)" is the federal term for
22 school districts within states; a state's department of education is called a "State education agency
23 (SEA)" in federal terms. In Maine, School Administrative Units (SAUs) are LEAs for federal purposes.
24 A public charter school is considered to be an LEA for certain federal programs.
25

26 **8. Local school board.** "Local school board" means a school board exercising
27 management and control of a school administrative unit pursuant to the Constitution of Maine and the
28 laws of the State.
29

30 **9. Noncharter public school.** "Noncharter public school" means a public school that is
31 under the direct management, governance and control of a local school board.
32

33 **10. Public charter school.** "Public charter school" means a public school that:
34

35 A. Has autonomy over key decisions, including, but not limited to, decisions concerning finance,
36 personnel, scheduling, curriculum and instruction;
37

38 B. Is governed by a board that is independent of a school administrative unit;
39

40 C. Is established and operated under the terms of a charter contract between the governing board
41 and its authorizer in accordance with this chapter;
42

43 D. Is a school to which parents choose to send their children;
44

45 E. Provides a program of education that:
46

47 (1) Includes one or more of the following: preschool, prekindergarten and any grade or
48 grades from kindergarten to grade 12;
49

1 (2) May include a focus on students with special needs, such as at-risk pupils, English
2 language learners or students involved with the juvenile justice system;
3

4 (3) May include a specific academic approach or theme, such as:

5 (a) Vocational and technical training;

6 (b) Natural resources and the environment;

7 (c) Farming, fishing and forestry;

8 (d) Foreign language and culture;

9 (e) Visual and performing arts;

10 (f) Science, mathematics and technology; and

11 (g) Project-based learning, experiential learning or online instruction;

12
13 F. Operates in pursuit of a specific set of educational objectives as defined in its charter contract;
14 and
15

16 G. Operates under the oversight of the authorizer from which its charter contract is granted and in
17 accordance with its charter contract.
18

19 **11. Start-up public charter school.** "Start-up public charter school" means a public
20 charter school that did not exist as a noncharter public school prior to becoming a public charter school.
21

22 **12. Virtual public charter school.** "Virtual public charter school" means a public charter
23 school that offers education services predominantly through an online program.

24 **§ 2402. Public charter schools authorized**

25 Charter schools may be established as public schools pursuant to this chapter to improve pupil
26 learning by creating more high-quality schools with high standards for pupil performance; to close
27 achievement gaps between high-performing and low-performing groups of public school students; to
28 increase high-quality educational opportunities within the public education system; to provide
29 alternative learning environments for students who are not thriving in traditional school settings; to
30 create new professional opportunities for teachers and other school personnel; to encourage the use of
31 different, high-quality models of teaching and other aspects of schooling; and to provide students,
32 parents, community members and local entities with expanded opportunities for involvement in the
33 public education system.

34 **§ 2403. Role of the department; commissioner; rules**

35
36 **1. Information and technical assistance.** The department shall disseminate information
37 on how to form and operate a public charter school and on how to enroll in a public charter school once
38 the school is created. The department may provide assistance and guidance to authorizers in developing
39 effective authorization and oversight procedures.
40

41 **2. Applications for federal funds.** The department may apply for assistance from the

1 federal charter school grant program on behalf of potential and actual public charter schools in the
2 State.

3
4 **3. Use of federal funds.** If the department receives a grant from the federal charter school
5 grant program on behalf of potential and actual charter schools, the grant must be used according to the
6 applicable federal law and primarily for planning and startup grants to public charter school organizers
7 and for such activities as:

8
9 A. Providing information and technical assistance to potential and actual public charter school
10 organizers and authorizers; and

11 B. Allocating funds to support the work of potential and actual authorizers.

12
13
14 **4. Rules.** The department may adopt routine technical rules pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375,
15 subchapter 2A to implement this chapter.

16
17 **5. Reports.** Four years after public charter schools have been in operation, the commissioner
18 shall issue to the Governor, the Legislature and the public a report on the State's charter school
19 program, drawing from the annual reports submitted by every authorizer pursuant to section 2407,
20 subsection 4, as well as any additional relevant data compiled by the commissioner up to the school
21 year ending in the preceding calendar year. The report must include an assessment of the charter school
22 program's successes, challenges and areas for improvement in meeting the purposes of this chapter and
23 any suggested changes in state law or policy necessary to strengthen the charter school program. The
24 commissioner shall issue a similar report after 8 years of operation of public charter schools.

25 **§ 2404. Public charter school eligibility; enrollment**

26
27 **1. Eligibility.** Any student residing in the State is eligible to apply to a public charter school.

28
29 **2. Enrollment.** A public charter school shall enroll students in accordance with this
30 subsection.

31
32 A. Public charter school organizers shall include all segments of the populations served by the
33 existing public schools in their area in their recruitment efforts.

34
35 B. A public charter school shall enroll all students who wish to attend the school, unless the
36 number of students exceeds the enrollment capacity of a program, class, grade level or building.

37
38 C. Except as provided in paragraphs G and H, if capacity is insufficient to enroll all students who
39 wish to attend the school, the public charter school shall select students through a random
40 selection process. A list maintained to fill potential vacancies may be carried over to the
41 succeeding year.

42
43 D. A public charter school, unless authorized by a school administrative unit, may not enroll more
44 than 10% of a school administrative unit's public school students per grade level in each of the
45 first 2 years of the public charter school's operation.

46
47 E. A public charter school may limit enrollment to pupils within a given age group or grade level

1 and may be organized around a special emphasis, theme or concept as stated in the school's
2 application for a charter contract pursuant to section 2410.
3

4 F. Any noncharter public school converting partially or entirely to a public charter school shall
5 adopt and maintain a policy that gives enrollment preference to pupils who reside within the
6 former attendance area of that public school.
7

8 G. A public charter school shall give enrollment preference to pupils enrolled in the public charter
9 school the previous school year and to siblings of pupils already enrolled in the public charter
10 school.
11

12 H. A public charter school may give enrollment preference to children of a public charter school's
13 founders, governing board members and full-time employees, as long as they constitute no more
14 than 10% of the school's total student population.
15

16 I. A public charter school may enroll students from outside the State if space is available.
17

18 **3. Discrimination prohibited.** A public charter school may not discriminate on the basis
19 of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, income level, disabling
20 condition, proficiency in the English language or academic or athletic ability, except that nothing in this
21 subsection may be construed to limit the formation of a public charter school that is dedicated to
22 focusing education services on at-risk pupils, students with disabilities and students who pose such
23 severe disciplinary problems that they warrant a specific education program.

24 **§ 2405. Public information**

25 An SAU shall provide or publicize to parents and the general public information about public
26 charter schools authorized by that SAU as an enrollment option within the SAU to the same extent and
27 through the same means that the SAU provides and publicizes information about noncharter public
28 schools in the SAU.

29 **§ 2406. Authorizers**

30
31 **1. Eligible authorizers.** The following groups may become authorizers of public charter
32 schools:
33

34 A. A local school board with regard to creating a public charter school within the boundaries of
35 the school administrative unit it governs;
36

37 B. A collaborative among authorizing entities that forms to set up a regional public charter
38 school;
39

40 C. A college or university located in the State that offers a baccalaureate degree in education; and
41

42 D. The State Charter School Commission established in subsection 9.
43

44 **2. Powers and duties.** An authorizer may:
45

46 A. Solicit, invite and evaluate applications from organizers of proposed public charter schools;
47

- 1 B. Approve applications that meet identified educational needs;
- 2
- 3 C. Deny applications that do not meet identified educational needs;
- 4
- 5 D. Create a framework to guide the development of charter contracts;
- 6
- 7 E. Negotiate and execute sound charter contracts with each approved public charter school;
- 8
- 9 F. Monitor the performance and compliance of public charter schools; and
- 10
- 11 G. Determine whether each charter contract merits renewal or revocation.
- 12

13 **3. Principles and professional standards.** An authorizer shall develop and maintain
14 policies and practices consistent with nationally recognized principles and professional standards for
15 authorizing public charter schools including standards relating to:
16

- 17 A. Organizational capacity and infrastructure;
- 18
- 19 B. Soliciting and evaluating applications;
- 20
- 21 C. Performance contracting;
- 22
- 23 D. Ongoing public charter school oversight and evaluation; and
- 24
- 25 E. Charter renewal decision making.
- 26

27 **4. Reporting and evaluation.** An authorizer shall submit to the commissioner an annual
28 report within 60 days of the end of each school fiscal year summarizing:
29

- 30 A. The authorizer's strategic vision for chartering and progress toward achieving that vision;
- 31
- 32 B. The performance of all operating public charter schools overseen by the authorizer, according
33 to the performance measures and expectations specified in the charter contracts;
- 34
- 35 C. The status of the authorizer's public charter school portfolio of approved charter applications,
36 identifying all public charter schools within that portfolio as:
37

38 (1) Approved, but not yet open;

39

40 (2) Operating;

41

42 (3) Renewed;

43

44 (4) Transferred;

45

46 (5) Terminated;

47

48 (6) Closed; or

1 (7) Never opened; and

2
3 D. The oversight and services provided by the authorizer to the public charter schools under the
4 authorizer's purview.

5
6 **5. Funding.** To cover costs for overseeing public charter schools in accordance with this
7 chapter, an authorizer may:

8
9 A. Expend its own resources, seek grant funds and establish partnerships to support its charter
10 school activities; and

11
12 B. Charge up to 3% of annual per-pupil allocations received by each public charter school it
13 authorizes. These funds must be used to cover the costs for an authorizer to oversee its public
14 charter schools.

15
16 **6. Conflicts of interest.** An employee, trustee, agent or representative of an authorizer may
17 not simultaneously serve as an employee, trustee, agent, representative, vendor or contractor of a public
18 charter school of that authorizer.

19
20
21 **7. Services purchased from authorizer.** A public charter school may not be required to
22 purchase services from its authorizer as a condition of charter approval or of executing a charter
23 contract, nor may any such condition be implied.

24
25 A. A public charter school may, at its discretion, choose to purchase services from its authorizer.
26 In such event, the public charter school and authorizer shall execute an annual service contract,
27 separate from the charter contract, stating the parties' mutual agreement concerning any services to
28 be provided by the authorizer and any service fees to be charged to the public charter school. An
29 authorizer may not charge more than market rates for services provided to a public charter school.

30
31 B. Within 90 days after the end of each school fiscal year, an authorizer shall provide to each
32 public charter school it oversees an itemized accounting of all the actual costs of services
33 purchased by the public charter school from the authorizer.

34
35 C. Any difference between the amount initially charged to the public charter school and the actual
36 cost must be reconciled and paid to the owed party. If either party disputes the itemized
37 accounting, any charges included in such accounting or charges to either party, the disputing party
38 is entitled to request a 3rd party review at its own expense.

39
40 **8. State Charter School Commission.** The State Charter School Commission,
41 established under Title 5, section 12004-G, subsection 10-D, is referred to in this chapter as "the
42 commission."

43
44 A. The commission consists of 7 members appointed by the state board for 3-year terms.

45
46 (1) Three members must be members of the state board, and those 3 members shall nominate
47 the other 4 members who must be approved by a majority vote of the state board.

1 (2) Members appointed to the commission must have diverse professional experience in
2 education, social services, youth training, business startup and administration, accounting and
3 finance, strategic planning and nonprofit governance.
4

5 (3) A commission member may not serve more than a total of 3 consecutive terms, but may
6 serve again after being off the commission for a term.
7

8 (4) A commission member may not receive compensation, but may be reimbursed for travel
9 expenses.

10
11 B. The commission shall, subject to the requirements of all charter school authorizers under this
12 chapter, develop, implement and refine procedures related to the process of authorizing the
13 creation of public charter schools in this State.
14

15 C. The commission shall, in keeping with its authorizing responsibilities:
16

17 (1) Engage professional and administrative staff, separate from the department;
18

19 (2) Convene stakeholder groups and engage experts; and
20

21 (3) Seek and receive state, federal and private funds.
22

23 D. The commission is the sole authorizer in this State for virtual public charter schools, except
24 that a local school district may authorize a public charter school within its jurisdiction that
25 integrates online and on-site instruction.

26 **§ 2407. Request for proposals**

27
28 **1. Issuance.** To invite, solicit, encourage and guide the development of high-quality public
29 charter school applications, an authorizer shall issue and broadly publicize requests for proposals. The
30 content and dissemination of the request for proposals must be consistent with the purposes and
31 requirements of this chapter.
32

33 **2. Content.** An authorizer's request for proposals must contain information outlined in this
34 subsection.
35

36 A. A request for proposals must present the authorizer's strategic vision for and interests in
37 chartering.
38

39 B. Authorizers may give priority to proposals that expand opportunities for children who are not
40 realizing their full potential, who may be disaffected or disengaged in their current education
41 situations and who may be at risk of failure academically, socially, economically or personally.
42 Authorizers may encourage proposals that include a specific academic approach or theme to
43 address the diverse educational needs of communities in the State. A request for proposals must
44 include a clear statement of any priority or preference the authorizer wishes to grant to particular
45 types of applications. Notwithstanding an authorizer's statement of any priority or preference, an

1 authorizer shall consider each application submitted to it based on the merits of that particular
2 application.

3
4 C. A request for proposals must include or otherwise direct applicants to the performance
5 framework that the authorizer has developed for public charter school oversight and evaluation in
6 accordance with section 2410.

7
8 D. A request for proposals must include the criteria and standards that will guide the authorizer's
9 decision to approve or deny an application.

10
11 E. A request for proposals must state clear, appropriately detailed questions as well as guidelines
12 concerning the format and content essential for applicants to demonstrate the capacities necessary
13 to establish and operate a successful public charter school.

14
15 F. A request for proposals must require applications to provide or describe thoroughly, at a
16 minimum, all of the following essential elements of the proposed public charter school plan:
17

18 (1) The proposed public charter school's vision, including:

19
20 (a) An executive summary;

21
22 (b) The mission and vision of the proposed public charter school, including
23 identification of the targeted student population and the community the school hopes to
24 serve; and

25
26 (c) Evidence of need and community support for the proposed public charter school,
27 including information on discussions with the SAU where the charter school will be
28 located concerning recruitment and operations of the charter school and possible
29 collaboration with nearby SAUs;
30

31 (2) The proposed public charter school's governance plan, including:

32
33 (a) Background information on proposed board members and any assurances or
34 certifications required by the authorizer;

35
36 (b) Proposed governing bylaws;

37
38 (c) An organization chart that clearly presents the school's organizational structure,
39 including lines of authority and reporting between the governing board, staff and any
40 related bodies such as advisory bodies or parent and teacher councils, and any external
41 organizations that will play a role in managing the school;

42
43 (d) A clear description of the roles and responsibilities for the governing board, the

1 school's leadership and management team and any other entities shown on the
2 organization chart;

3
4 (e) Identification of the proposed founding governing board members and, if identified,
5 the proposed school leader or leaders; and

6
7 (f) Background information on the school's leadership and management team, if
8 identified;
9

10 (3) The proposed public charter school's plan of organization, including:

11
12 (a) The general location and geographic area to be served;

13
14 (b) The grades to be served each year for the full term of the charter;

15
16 (c) Minimum, planned and maximum enrollment per grade per year for the term of the
17 charter;

18
19 (d) The school's proposed calendar and sample daily schedule;

20
21 (e) Plans and timelines for student recruitment and enrollment, including lottery
22 procedures;

23
24 (f) Explanations of any partnerships or contractual relationships central to the school's
25 operations or mission;

26
27 (g) The school's proposals for providing transportation, food service and other
28 significant operational or ancillary services;

29
30 (h) A facilities plan, including backup or contingency plans if appropriate;

31
32 (i) A detailed school startup plan, identifying tasks, timelines and responsible
33 individuals; and

34
35 (j) A closure protocol, outlining orderly plans and timelines for transitioning students
36 and student records to new schools and for appropriately disposing of school funds,
37 property and assets in the event of school closure;
38

39 (4) The proposed public charter school's finances, including:

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(a) A description of the school's financial plan and policies, including financial controls and audit requirements;

(b) Start-up and 3-year budgets with clearly stated assumptions;

(c) Start-up and first-year cash-flow projections with clearly stated assumptions;

(d) Evidence of anticipated fund-raising contributions, if claimed in the application; and

(e) A description of the insurance coverage the school proposes to obtain;

(5) The proposed public charter school's student policy, including:

(a) The school's plans for identifying and successfully serving students with the wide range of learning needs and styles typically found in schools of the sending area;

(b) The school's plans for compliance with applicable laws, rules and regulations; and

(c) The school's student discipline plans and policies, including those for special education students;

(6) The proposed public charter school's academic program, including:

(a) A description of the academic program aligned with the statewide system of learning results under section 6208;

(b) A description of the school's instructional design, including the type of learning environment, such as classroom-based or independent study, class size and structure, curriculum overview, teaching methods and research basis;

(c) The school's plan for using internal and external assessments to measure and report student progress on the measures and metrics of the performance framework developed by the authorizer in accordance with section 2410; and

(d) A description of cocurricular or extracurricular programs and how they will be funded and delivered; and

(7) The proposed public charter school's staff policy, including:

1
2 (a) A staffing chart for the school's first year and a staffing plan for the term of the
3 charter;

4
5 (b) Plans for recruiting and developing school leadership and staff;

6
7 (c) The school's leadership and teacher employment policies, including performance
8 evaluation plans; and

9
10 (d) Opportunities and expectations for parent involvement.

11
12 G. With respect to the conversion of an existing public school to public charter school status, in
13 addition to the other requirements of this subsection, the request for proposals must require
14 applicants to demonstrate support for the proposed conversion public charter school by submitting
15 2 petitions, one signed by a majority of teachers in the existing public school and the other signed
16 by a majority of parents of students in the existing public school.
17

18 If the school to be converted is the only public school option for students in the school
19 administrative unit, the request for proposals must additionally require that the conversion be
20 approved by voters in that school administrative unit.

21
22 H. With respect to a proposed charter school that intends to contract with an education service
23 provider for substantial education or management services, in addition to the other requirements of
24 this subsection, the request for proposals must require applicants to:
25

26 (1) Explain how and why the education service provider was selected;
27

28 (2) Provide evidence of the education service provider's success in serving student
29 populations similar to the targeted population, including demonstrated academic achievement
30 as well as successful management of nonacademic school functions if applicable;
31

32 (3) Provide information on the proposed duration of the service contract; roles and
33 responsibilities; scope of services and resources to be provided by the education service
34 provider; performance evaluation measures and timelines; compensation structure, including
35 clear identification of all fees to be paid to the education service provider; methods of
36 contract oversight and enforcement; investment disclosure; and conditions for renewal and
37 termination of the contract;
38

39 (4) Provide a draft of the proposed service contract including all of the terms in
40 subparagraphs (1), (2) and (3);
41

42 (5) Explain the relationship between the governing board and the education service provider,
43 specifying how the governing board will monitor and evaluate the performance of the

1 education service provider, the internal controls that will guide the relationship and how the
2 governing board will ensure fulfillment of performance expectations;
3

4 (6) Provide a statement of assurance that the governing board is legally and operationally
5 independent from the education service provider; and
6

7 (7) Disclose and explain any existing or potential conflicts of interest between the governing
8 board and the education service provider or any affiliated business entities.
9

10 I. With respect to a public charter school proposal from an applicant that currently operates one or
11 more schools in any other state or nation, in addition to the other requirements of this subsection,
12 the request for proposals must require applicants to provide evidence of past performance and
13 current capacity for growth.

14 **§ 2408. Charter applications**

15
16 **1. Application.** An applicant for approval as a public charter school must submit an
17 application as set out in this section. An applicant may submit an application only to an authorizer that
18 has issued a request for proposals in accordance with section 2407. An applicant may submit a proposal
19 for a particular public charter school to no more than one authorizer at a time. The purposes of the
20 application are to present the proposed public charter school's academic and operational vision and
21 plans, demonstrate the applicant's capacities to execute the proposed vision and plans and provide the
22 authorizer a clear basis for assessing the applicant's plans and capacities.
23

24 **2. Conversion of existing public schools.** A public school or public school program
25 may apply to its local school board to become a conversion public charter school.
26

27 **3. Start-up schools.** An application for a startup public charter school may be submitted by
28 a nonprofit, nonreligious organization. If the organizers of a startup public charter school have been
29 affiliated with a previous school or education program, they must form a separate nonprofit
30 organization in this State to be eligible for state and federal grants.
31

32 **4. Application review process.** In reviewing and evaluating applications, authorizers
33 shall employ procedures, practices, criteria and standards consistent with nationally recognized
34 principles and standards for authorizing high-quality public charter schools.
35

36 **A.** The application review process must include, at a minimum, substantive participation by a
37 team of reviewers who collectively possess appropriate academic expertise and operational
38 experience with charter schools.
39

40 **B.** The application review process must include a thorough evaluation of each application, an in-
41 person interview with the applicant and a public hearing.
42

43 **C.** In deciding whether to approve applications, authorizers shall:
44

45 (1) Grant charters only to applicants that have demonstrated competence in each element of

1 the authorizer's published approval criteria and are likely to open and operate a successful
2 public charter school;
3

4 (2) Base decisions on documented evidence collected through the application review process;
5 and
6

7 (3) Follow charter-granting policies and practices that are transparent, based on merit and
8 avoid conflicts of interest or any appearance of a conflict of interest.
9

10 **5. Approval; denial.** No later than 90 days after the filing of an application, an authorizer
11 shall decide to approve or deny the application. The authorizer shall make and announce all charter
12 approval or denial decisions in a meeting open to the public.
13

14 A. An approval decision may include, if appropriate, reasonable conditions that the applicant
15 must meet before a charter contract may be executed.
16

17 B. If the authorizer denies an application, the authorizer shall clearly state, for public record, its
18 reasons for denial. An applicant may subsequently reapply to that authorizer or apply to any other
19 authorizer in the State.
20

21 C. Within 10 days of taking action to approve or deny an application, the authorizer shall report to
22 the commissioner the action it has taken. The authorizer shall provide a copy of the report to the
23 applicant at the same time that the report is submitted to the commissioner.
24

25 D. The commissioner shall register the charters approved by all chartering authorities in
26 chronological order by date of approval.
27

28 E. An approved application may not serve as a school's charter contract nor may it be
29 incorporated by reference into the charter contract.
30

31 F. A decision on an application must be conveyed in writing to the applicant. A decision may
32 grant approval or conditional approval, request resubmission or reject the application and must
33 include written reasons for the decisions.

34 **§ 2409. Charter contracts**

35
36 **1. Charter contracts.** When an application is approved, a charter contract must be executed
37 in accordance with this section.
38

39 A. After approval of an application and no later than 60 days prior to the opening date of the
40 public charter school, the authorizer and the governing board shall execute a charter contract that
41 sets forth:
42

43 (1) Performance provisions describing the academic and operational performance
44 expectations and measures by which the public charter school will be judged; and
45

46 (2) Administrative provisions articulating the administrative relationship between the

1 authorizer and the public charter school, including each party's rights and duties.

2
3 B. The performance provisions set forth in a charter contract under paragraph A must include but
4 need not be limited to applicable federal and state accountability requirements.

5
6 C. The performance provisions set forth in a charter contract under paragraph A may be refined or
7 amended by mutual agreement of the parties to the charter contract after the public charter school
8 is operating and has collected baseline achievement data for its enrolled students.

9
10 D. A charter contract must be signed by a designated representative of the authorizer and of the
11 charter school's governing board.

12
13 E. A public charter school may not commence operations without a charter contract executed in
14 accordance with this section and approved in a meeting open to the public.

15
16 **2. Virtual public charter schools.** The charter contract of a virtual public charter school
17 must require the governing board to:

18
19 A. Provide each student enrolled in the virtual public charter school with online courses that meet
20 or exceed state standards and all instructional materials required for the student's participation in
21 the school;

22
23 B. Ensure that the persons who operate the virtual public charter school on a day-to-day basis
24 comply with and carry out all applicable requirements, statutes, regulations, rules and policies of
25 the school;

26
27 C. Ensure that a parent of each student verifies the number of hours of educational activities
28 completed by the student each school year; and

29
30 D. Adopt a plan by which the governing board provides:

31
32 (1) Frequent, ongoing monitoring to ensure and verify that each student is participating in the
33 virtual public charter school, including proctored assessments each semester in core subjects
34 graded or evaluated by the teacher, and at least biweekly parent-teacher conferences in
35 person or by telephone;

36
37 (2) Regular instructional opportunities in real time that are directly related to the virtual
38 public charter school's curricular objectives, including, but not limited to, meetings with
39 teachers and educational field trips and outings;

40
41 (3) Verification of ongoing student attendance in the virtual public charter school;

42
43 (4) Verification of ongoing student progress and performance in each course as documented
44 by ongoing assessments and examples of student course work; and

45
46 (5) Administration to all students in a proctored setting of all applicable assessments as
47 required by the State.

1
2 Nothing in this subsection prohibits a virtual public charter school from reimbursing families of
3 enrolled students for costs associated with their Internet connection for use in the program.

4
5 Only students enrolled in a virtual public charter school as full-time students may be reported in the
6 virtual public charter school's average pupil count to the department for the purposes of receiving local,
7 state and federal funds.

8 **§ 2410. Public charter school performance framework**

9
10 **1. Performance framework.** The performance provisions of a charter contract must be
11 based on a performance framework developed by the authorizer that sets forth the academic and
12 operational performance indicators that will guide the authorizer's evaluations of each public charter
13 school.

14
15 **2. Data elements.** The performance framework developed under subsection 1 must include,
16 at a minimum, indicators for:

- 17
18 A. Student academic proficiency;
19
20 B. Student academic growth;
21
22 C. Achievement gaps in both proficiency and growth between major student subgroups;
23
24 D. Attendance;
25
26 E. Recurrent enrollment from year to year;
27
28 F. With respect to high school, postsecondary readiness;
29
30 G. Financial performance and sustainability;
31
32 H. Governing board performance and stewardship; and
33
34 I. Parent and community engagement.
35

36 **3. Annual performance targets.** Annual performance targets must be set by a public
37 charter school in conjunction with its authorizer and must be designed to help each school meet
38 applicable federal and state requirements and authorizer expectations.

39
40 **4. Data disaggregation.** The performance framework developed under subsection 1 must
41 require the disaggregation of all student performance data by major student subgroups.

42
43 **5. Reports for multiple campuses.** With respect to a public charter school that contains
44 multiple campuses operating under a single charter contract or overseen by a single governing board,
45 the performance framework developed under subsection 1 must require the performance of each
46 campus to be reported separately and must hold each campus independently accountable for its
47 performance.

1 **§ 2411. Oversight**

2
3 **1. Data collection; monitoring.** For each public charter school it oversees, the authorizer
4 is responsible for collecting, analyzing and reporting all data from state assessments in accordance with
5 the performance framework developed under section 2411, subsection 1. An authorizer shall monitor
6 the performance and legal compliance of the public charter schools it oversees, including collecting and
7 analyzing all data to support ongoing evaluation according to the charter contract.
8

9 **2. Notification of unsatisfactory performance or compliance.** In the event that a
10 public charter school's performance or legal compliance appears unsatisfactory, the authorizer shall
11 promptly notify the public charter school of perceived problems and provide reasonable opportunity for
12 the school to remedy the problems.

13 **§ 2412. Charter term and renewal**

14
15 **1. Initial charter term.** An initial charter must be granted for a term of 5 operating years.
16 The charter term commences on the public charter school's first day of operation. An approved public
17 charter school may delay its opening for one school year in order to plan and prepare for the school's
18 opening. If the public charter school requires an opening delay of more than one school year, the public
19 charter school must request an extension from its authorizer. The authorizer may grant or deny the
20 extension depending on the particular public charter school's circumstances.
21

22 **2. Charter renewal term.** A charter may be renewed for successive terms of 5 years,
23 although an authorizer may grant a renewal for a term not to exceed 15 years based on the performance,
24 demonstrated capacities and particular circumstances of each public charter school. If a charter is
25 renewed for more than 5 years, the authorizer shall still issue a charter school performance report every
26 5 years as called for by subsection 3. An authorizer may grant renewal with specific conditions for
27 necessary improvements to a public charter school.
28

29 **3. Authorizer renewal responsibilities.** No later than June 30th of a public charter
30 school's 4th year of operation under each 5-year term of a charter contract, the authorizer shall issue a
31 charter school performance report. If the charter of the public charter school is expiring, the authorizer
32 shall offer charter renewal application guidance to the school.
33

34 **A.** The performance report required in this subsection must summarize the public charter school's
35 performance record to date, based on the data required by this chapter and the charter contract, and
36 must provide notice of any weaknesses or concerns perceived by the authorizer concerning the
37 school that may jeopardize its position in seeking renewal if not timely rectified. The school must
38 be given the opportunity to respond to the performance report and submit any corrections or
39 clarifications for the report.
40

41 **B.** The renewal application guidance required by this subsection must include or refer explicitly
42 to the criteria and standards that will guide the authorizer's renewal decisions, which must be
43 based on the performance framework set forth in the charter contract and consistent with this
44 chapter. The renewal application guidance must, at a minimum, require and provide an
45 opportunity for the public charter school to:

1
2 (1) Present additional evidence, beyond the data contained in the performance report,
3 supporting its case for charter renewal;
4

5 (2) Describe improvements undertaken or planned for the school; and
6

7 (3) Detail the school's plans for the next charter term.
8

9 **4. Renewal application.** No later than September 30th of a public charter school's 5th year
10 of operation under a term of a charter contract or September 30th of a public charter school's final
11 authorized year of operation under a term of a charter contract, the governing board of a public charter
12 school seeking renewal shall submit a renewal application to the authorizer pursuant to any renewal
13 application guidance offered by the authorizer under subsection 3.
14

15 **5. Renewal decision.** An authorizer shall rule by resolution on a renewal application under
16 this section no later than 45 days after the filing of the renewal application. In making charter renewal
17 decisions, every authorizer shall:
18

19 A. Ground its decisions in evidence of the public charter school's performance over the term of
20 the charter in accordance with the performance framework set forth in the charter contract;
21

22 B. Ensure that data used in making renewal decisions are available to the school and the public;
23 and
24

25 C. Provide a public report summarizing the evidence basis for each decision.
26

27 **6. Charter revocation and nonrenewal.** A decision by an authorizer to revoke or not to
28 renew the charter of a public charter school must be made in accordance with this subsection.
29

30 A. A charter may be revoked at any time or not renewed if the authorizer determines that the
31 public charter school failed to comply with the provisions of this chapter or:
32

33 (1) Committed a material violation of any of the terms, conditions, standards or procedures
34 required under this chapter or the charter contract;
35

36 (2) Failed to meet or make sufficient progress toward the performance expectations set forth
37 in the charter contract;
38

39 (3) Failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management; or
40

41 (4) Violated any provision of law from which the school was not exempted.
42

43 B. If an authorizer revokes or does not renew a charter, the authorizer shall clearly state, in a
44 resolution of its governing entity, the reasons for the revocation or nonrenewal.
45

46 **7. Notification to commissioner.** Within 10 days of taking action to renew, not renew or

1 revoke a charter under this section, the authorizer shall report to the commissioner the action taken and
2 shall provide a copy of the report to the public charter school at the same time that the report is
3 submitted to the commissioner. The report must include a copy of the governing entity of the
4 authorizer's resolution setting forth the action taken and reasons for the decision.
5

6 **8. School closure and dissolution.** If a public charter school closes for any reason:
7

8 A. The authorizer shall oversee and work with the closing public charter school to ensure timely
9 notification to parents and guardians, orderly transition of students and student records to new
10 schools and proper disposition of school funds, property and assets in accordance with the
11 requirements of this chapter; and
12

13 B. The assets of the public charter school must be distributed first to satisfy outstanding payroll
14 obligations for employees of the school and then to creditors of the school. Any remaining funds
15 must be paid to the Treasurer of State to the credit of the General Fund. If the assets of the school
16 are insufficient to pay all parties to whom the school owes compensation, the prioritization of the
17 distribution of assets may be determined by decree of a court of law.
18

19 **9. Charter transfers.** A charter contract and its oversight may not be transferred from one
20 authorizer to another before the expiration of the charter contract term except by mutual agreement of
21 the charter school governing board and the two authorizing agencies involved.

22 **§ 2413. Operations**
23

24 **1. Legal status.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, to the extent that any
25 provision of this chapter is inconsistent with any other state or local law, rule or regulation, the
26 provisions of this chapter govern and are controlling.
27

28 A. A public charter school is subject to all federal laws and authorities, to local law not
29 inconsistent with this chapter and to the charter contract.
30

31 B. A charter contract may include one or more schools, to the extent approved by the authorizer
32 and consistent with applicable law. Each public charter school that is part of a charter contract
33 must be separate and distinct from any others.
34

35 C. A single governing board may be issued one or more charter contracts. Each public charter
36 school operating under its own contract is a discrete legal entity, separate and distinct from any
37 others.
38

39 **2. Local educational agency status.** The following provisions govern the local
40 educational agency status of public charter schools.
41

42 A. In the case of a public charter school authorized by an SAU:
43

44 (1) The SAU in which the public charter school is located remains the local educational
45 agency and the public charter school is a school within that local educational agency;
46

47 (2) The public charter school receives services, resources and support in the same manner as

1 other local school district public schools; and
2

3 (3) The local school district retains responsibility for special education and serves students in
4 public charter schools in a manner consistent with local educational agency obligations under
5 applicable federal, state and local law.
6

7 B. In the case of a public charter school authorized by a college, university or the commission:
8

9 (1) The public charter school functions for all purposes as an SAU - independent of the SAU
10 in which the school is located. SAU status does not preclude a public charter school from
11 developing links to local school districts for services, resources and programs, by mutual
12 agreement or by formal contract;
13

14 (2) To the extent permitted by federal, state or local laws, the public charter school is
15 responsible for meeting the requirements of local educational agencies under applicable
16 federal, state and local laws, including those relating to special education, receipt of funds
17 and compliance with funding requirements; and
18

19 To the extent permitted by federal, state or local laws, the public charter school has primary
20 responsibility for special education at the school, including identification and provision of
21 service, and is responsible for meeting the needs of enrolled students with disabilities.
22

23 **3. Powers of public charter schools.** A public charter school has all the powers
24 necessary for carrying out the terms of its charter contract, including the powers to:
25

26 A. Receive and disburse funds for school purposes;
27

28 B. Contract or cooperate with noncharter public schools for service for students with special
29 needs, English language learner students and other specialized populations, as well as for mutually
30 agreed administrative services;
31

32 C. Secure appropriate insurance and enter into contracts and leases, free from prevailing wage
33 laws;
34

35 D. Contract with an education service provider for the management and operation of the school,
36 as long as the school's governing board retains oversight authority over the school;
37

38 E. Incur debt in reasonable anticipation of the receipt of public or private funds, provided that an
39 authorizer is not responsible for any debt incurred by the public charter school;
40

41 F. Pledge, assign or encumber its assets to be used as collateral for loans or extensions of credit;
42

43 G. Solicit and accept any gifts or grants for school purposes subject to applicable laws and the
44 terms of its charter contract;
45

46 H. Acquire real property for use as its facility or facilities from public or private sources; and
47

48 I. Sue and be sued in its own name.

1
2 **4. General requirements.** A public charter school is subject to the general requirements
3 set out in this subsection.

4
5 A. A public charter school may not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, creed,
6 color, sex, disability or national origin or on any other basis that would be unlawful if done by a
7 public school.

8
9 B. A public charter school may not engage in any religious practices in its educational program,
10 admissions or employment policies or operations.

11
12 C. A public charter school may not charge tuition and may only charge such fees as may be
13 imposed by other public schools in the State. A public charter school may charge tuition to an out-
14 of-state student admitted to the school on a space-available basis.

15
16 D. A public charter school must have a plan that describes how the school will meet the
17 transportation needs of its students.

18
19 E. The powers, obligations and responsibilities set forth in a charter contract may not be delegated
20 or assigned by either party except as provided in section 2412.9.

21
22 **5. Applicability of other laws, rules and regulations.** The applicability of other
23 laws, rules and regulations to public charter schools is as set out in this subsection.

24
25 A. Public charter schools are subject to the same civil rights and health and safety requirements
26 applicable to other public schools in the State, except as otherwise specifically provided in this
27 chapter.

28
29 B. Public charter schools are subject to the same student assessment and accountability
30 requirements applicable to other public schools in the State, but nothing in this chapter precludes a
31 public charter school from establishing additional student assessment measures that go beyond
32 state requirements if the school's authorizer approves such measures.

33
34 C. Governing boards are subject to and must comply with Title 1, chapter 13.

35
36 D. Except as provided in this chapter and its charter contract, a public charter school is exempt
37 from all statutes and rules applicable to a public school, a local school board or an SAU. School
38 administrative units may not interpret this paragraph as reducing their obligation to provide
39 education for their residents.

40
41 E. A public charter school is exempt from the restrictions normally associated with any state-
42 funded categorical education funding program.

43
44 F. Employees and other charter school personnel are subject to criminal history record checks
45 and fingerprinting requirements applicable to other public schools.

46
47 **6. Teachers.** This subsection governs teacher employment in a public charter school.

48
49 A. A public charter school must comply with applicable federal laws and regulations regarding
50 the qualification of teachers and other instructional staff.

1
2 B. All full-time teachers in a public charter school must either hold an appropriate teaching
3 certificate or become certified within 3 years of the date they are hired, except for those with an
4 advanced degree, professional certification or unique expertise or experience in the curricular area
5 in which they teach.

6
7 C. Teachers at a public charter school may choose to bargain collectively or form a professional
8 group in accordance with this paragraph.
9

10 (1) Teachers who are employees of the public charter school have the same rights as other
11 teachers in public education to organize and bargain collectively. Bargaining units at the
12 public charter school must be separate from other bargaining units, such as a district
13 bargaining unit. Staff at noncharter public schools converting to public charter schools have a
14 right to employment benefits as stated in applicable collective bargaining agreements or they
15 may vote to be represented in alternative ways.
16

17 (2) A teacher who is an employee of the public charter school may choose to be part of a
18 professional group that operates the instructional program under an agreement with the public
19 charter school, forming a partnership or producer cooperative that the teachers collectively
20 own.
21

22 (3) Teachers who are employees of the public charter school may not be required to be
23 members of any existing collective bargaining agreement between a local school district and
24 its employees. A public charter school may not interfere with civil service laws or other
25 applicable rules protecting the rights of employees to organize and be free from
26 discrimination.
27

28 **7. External audit.** A public charter school shall adhere to generally accepted accounting
29 principles and shall annually engage an external auditor to do an independent audit of the school's
30 finances.

31 **§ 2414. Funding**

32
33 **1. Enrollment count; report.** Students attending public charter schools must be included
34 in all enrollment and attendance counts of students of the SAUs in which the students reside. The
35 public charter school shall report all such data to the SAUs of residence in a timely manner. Each SAU
36 shall report such enrollment, attendance and other counts of students to the department.
37

38 **2. Revenue provisions.** All state and local operating funds follow each student to the
39 public charter school attended by the student, except that the school administrative unit of the student's
40 residence may retain up to 1% of the per-pupil allocation described in this subsection to cover
41 associated administrative costs.
42

43 A. For each public charter school student, the school administrative unit in which the student
44 resides must forward the per-pupil allocation to the public charter school attended by the student
45 as follows.

1
2 (1) The per-pupil allocation amounts must be based on the same per-pupil rates that are
3 provided for subsidizable pupils who reside in the school administrative unit and who are
4 educated at public expense for the current fiscal year. These amounts must reflect each
5 student's status according to grade level, economic disadvantage, and limited English
6 proficiency. The department shall adopt rules governing cost-sharing for students
7 participating in gifted and talented and vocational, technical and career education programs.
8 For transportation expenses, the average per-pupil expense in each school administrative unit
9 of residence must be calculated and a per-pupil allocation of that amount must be forwarded
10 to the public charter school attended on the same basis as the per-pupil allocations for
11 operating funds. The department shall adopt rules governing how to calculate these per-pupil
12 allocations including those for gifted and talented programs, vocational and career and
13 technical education programs, targeted funds for assessment, technology, and K-2 programs.
14 Debt service and capital outlays may not be included in the calculation of these per-pupil
15 allocations.
16

17 (2) For students attending public charter schools, the school administrative unit of residence
18 shall forward the per-pupil allocations described in subparagraph (1) directly to the charter
19 school attended. These per-pupil allocations must be forwarded to each charter school on a
20 quarterly basis, as follows. For each fiscal year, allocations must be made in quarterly
21 payments on September 1st, December 1st, March 1st and June 1st. The September payment
22 must be based on the number of students enrolled or anticipated to be enrolled in the public
23 charter school at the opening of school for that school year, which may not exceed the
24 maximum enrollment approved in the charter contract for that year unless a waiver is
25 obtained from the authorizer. In February of the school year, if the number of students is
26 higher or lower than the number of students at the beginning of the school year, adjustments
27 must be made in the June payment, with 50% of the annual per-pupil allocation added for
28 additional students or subtracted if the total number of students is lower.
29

30 B. The following provisions govern special education funding.
31

32 (1) For each enrolled special education pupil, a public charter school shall receive the average
33 additional allocation calculated by the department for each school administrative unit for its
34 students with special needs. These allocations shall be paid to the charter school by the
35 resident school administrative unit on the same basis as the per-pupil allocations for operating
36 funds.
37

38 (2) The SAU of residence shall pay directly to the public charter school any federal or state
39 aid attributable to a student with a disability attending the public charter school in proportion
40 to the level of services for the student with a disability that the public charter school provides
41 directly or indirectly.
42

43 C. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the State shall send applicable federal funds
44 directly to public charter schools attended by eligible students.
45

1 (1) Public charter schools with students eligible for funds under Title I of the federal
2 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, 20 United States Code, Section 6301 et
3 seq. must receive and use these funds in accordance with federal and state law. During the
4 first year of operation, a public charter school must receive Title I funds on the basis of an
5 estimated enrollment of eligible students, as agreed with its authorizer.
6

7 D. A public charter school may receive gifts and grants from private sources in any manner that is
8 available to a school administrative unit.
9

10 E. A public charter school may not levy taxes or issue bonds secured by tax revenues.
11

12 F. In the event of the failure of the SAU to make payments required by this section, the Treasurer
13 of State shall deduct from any state funds that become due to the SAU an amount equal to the
14 unpaid obligation. The Treasurer of State shall pay over the amount to the public charter school
15 upon certification of the department. The department shall adopt rules to implement the provisions
16 of this paragraph.
17

18 G. Any money received by a public charter school from any source and remaining in the school's
19 accounts at the end of any budget year remains in the school's accounts for use by the school
20 during subsequent budget years and may not revert to the authorizer or to the State.
21

22 H. Nothing in this chapter may be construed to prohibit any person or organization from
23 providing funding or other assistance for the establishment or operation of a public charter school.
24 The governing board of a public charter school may accept gifts, donations or grants of any kind
25 made to the school and expend or use such gifts, donations or grants in accordance with the
26 conditions prescribed by the donor except that a gift, donation or grant may not be accepted if
27 subject to a condition that is contrary to any provision of law or term of the charter contract.
28

29 I. Public charter schools have the same access as other public schools to any risk pool for high-
30 cost special education services and to any fund for fiscal emergencies.

31 **§ 2415. Facilities**

32
33 **1. Facilities; property.** A public charter school may acquire facilities and property in
34 accordance with this subsection.
35

36 A. A public charter school has a right of first refusal to purchase or lease at or below fair market
37 value a closed public school facility or property or unused portions of a public school facility or
38 property located in a SAU from which it draws its students if the SAU decides to sell or lease the
39 public school facility or property. The SAU may not require purchase or lease payments that
40 exceed the fair market value of the property.
41

42 B. A public charter school may negotiate and contract with an SAU, the governing body of a state
43 college or university or public community college or any other public or for-profit or nonprofit
44 private entity for the use of a school building.
45

46 C. Library, community service, museum, performing arts, theater, cinema, church, community
47 college, college and university facilities may provide space to public charter schools within their

1 facilities under their preexisting zoning and land use designations.
2

3 D. A public charter school may purchase or lease at or below fair market value part or all of any
4 surplus or unused state-owned facility or property located in the State. The state agency in control
5 of the facility may not require purchase or lease payments that exceed the fair market value of the
6 property.
7

8 E. The same zoning rules that apply to other public schools apply to public charter schools.
9

10 **2. Inspection; building code.** The municipality in which a facility of a public charter
11 school is located is the agency that has jurisdiction for the purposes of inspection of the facility and
12 issuance of a certificate of occupancy for the facility. If the facility is located in an unorganized area of
13 the State, the county has jurisdiction for those purposes. A facility of a public charter school is subject
14 to the same building codes, regulations and fees that apply to other public schools.
15

16 **3. Taxes.** A facility, or portion thereof, used to house a public charter school is exempt from
17 property taxes.

18 **§ 2416. Miscellaneous**

19
20 **1. Transfer of credits.** If a student who was previously enrolled in a public charter school
21 enrolls in another public school in this State, the school to which the student transfers must accept
22 credits earned by the student in courses or instructional programs at the public charter school in a
23 uniform and consistent manner and according to the same criteria that are used to accept academic
24 credits from other public schools.
25

26 **2. Access to extracurricular and interscholastic activities.** A public charter school
27 is eligible for state-sponsored or local school district-sponsored interscholastic leagues, competitions,
28 awards, scholarships and recognition programs for students, educators, administrators and schools to
29 the same extent as noncharter public schools. A public charter school student is eligible to participate in
30 extracurricular activities not offered by the student's public charter school at the public school within
31 whose attendance boundaries the student's custodial parent or legal guardian resides or the public
32 school from which the student withdrew for the purpose of attending a charter school. A charter school
33 student is eligible for extracurricular activities at a public school subject to eligibility standards applied
34 to full-time students of the public school. An SAU or public school may not impose additional
35 requirements on a public charter school student to participate in extracurricular activities that are not
36 imposed on full-time students of the public school. Public charter school students shall pay the same
37 fees as other students to participate in extracurricular or co-curricular activities. For each public charter
38 school student who participates in an extracurricular or co-curricular activity at a non-charter public
39 school, the public charter school shall pay a reasonable share of the non-charter school's costs for the
40 activity, as negotiated between the schools involved.
41

42 **3. Retirement.** A public charter school may establish a retirement plan or plans for
43 employees.
44

45 A. If a public charter school chooses to set up a plan with the Maine Public Employees
46 Retirement System, the public charter school may establish a participating local district plan with

1 the Maine Public Employees Retirement System under Title 5, chapter 425.

2 **Sec. 9. Review of retirement laws.** The Maine Public Employees Retirement System shall
3 review the laws governing participating local districts' retirement plans and shall submit, by December
4 1, 2011, a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs that includes
5 any proposed legislation necessary to fully implement this Act.

6 **Sec. 10. Staggered terms.** Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20A, section
7 2407, subsection 9, of the initial members of the State Charter School Commission, one member who is
8 also a member of the State Board of Education serves a 3year term, one member who is a member of
9 the state board serves a 2year term and one member who is a member of the state board serves a one-
10 year term. Two members who are approved by the state board serve 3year terms, one serves a 2year
11 term and one serves a one-year term.

12

13

SUMMARY

14 This bill establishes a process to authorize the establishment of public charter schools in the State.

15