

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 1921

DATE: February 17, 2004

Version: As introduced

Authors: Klinzing and others

Subject: Charter school amendments

Analyst: Lisa Larson, 651-296-8036

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Overview

Amends charter school provisions related to the ability of charter school students to participate in the extracurricular activities of their resident school district and the ability of the resident district to charge charter schools for a proportionate share of the activity costs, the authority of the education commissioner to authorize up to five qualified "501(c)(3)" charitable organizations to serve as charter school sponsors, the proportion of teachers on a charter school board of directors, and the obligation of charter schools to submit school calendars to the education department.

Section

- 1** **Board control of extracurricular activities.** (a) Makes resident students enrolled in a charter school eligible to fully participate in extracurricular activities on the same basis as public school students enrolled in the district's schools. Requires charter school students participating in extracurricular activities to meet the charter school's academic and student conduct requirements.

(f) Allows school districts to charge charter schools their proportionate share of the costs of extracurricular activities that are not covered by student fees.
- 2** **Sponsor.** (a) Adds the Minnesota Department of Education to the list of eligible charter

Makes this section effective for the 2004-2005 school year.

Section

school sponsors.

(c) Allows the education commissioner to approve up to five qualified "501(c)(3)" charitable organizations as charter school sponsors. Requires that proposals from these charitable organizations to sponsor a charter school include (1) articles, bylaws and initial board membership, (2) financing sources for the school's operations, (3) areas of specialization related to sponsoring the school, and (4) other information the department requests. Directs sponsors approved under this paragraph annually to report to the commissioner on the charter schools sponsored, the schools' effectiveness in promoting student achievement, the development of alternative school governance structures and other information the department requests. Allows the commissioner to terminate the commissioner's approval of a sponsor under this paragraph if the sponsor demonstrates persistent financial mismanagement or repeated violations of law.

3 Formation of school. (c) Allows but no longer requires teachers to be a majority of the members of the board of directors during the first three years a charter school operates and strikes the commissioner's authority to waive the requirement that teachers compose a majority of board members.

4 Payment of aids to charter schools. (d) Requires a charter school in its first three years of operation to submit a school calendar to the department, in addition to quarterly reports, as a condition of receiving state aid payments. Requires a charter school in its fourth and subsequent years of operation to submit a school calendar to the department, in addition to enrollment information.