Proposes to allow voters to elect to convert a school district to a charter district governed by a school board, or the board of the city, town or county containing the greatest land area of the district. Permits a majority of teachers employed at a school within a district to petition not to convert to a charter school. Directs each charter school to establish a school council charged with school operations. Permits a school within a newly formed charter district to hire school district employees and provides a severance package to those employees not hired. Makes existing charter school laws applicable to charter districts and releases the governing body of the charter district from any power or duty delegated to charter schools.

1 Charter school districts.

Subd. 1. Procedure. Permits voters to approve the conversion of a school district to a charter district at a school district election. Permits the school board to call the election, and obligates the school board to call the election upon receiving a written petition from qualified voters. Requires the school board to give 30 days' published notice of the election in an official district newspaper, stating the time, place, election purpose, proposed governing body as described under subdivision 2, effective date for the conversion, and schools electing not to be converted under subdivision 3. Requires a majority of votes cast at the election to approve the conversion.

Subd. 2. Charter district governance. Permits a ballot question on converting a school district to a charter district to ask whether the board of the city, town or county containing the greatest land area of the district should govern the newly formed charter district, instead of the local school board.

Subd. 3. Election not to convert a school. Permits a school within a school district to elect not to convert to a charter school if a majority of the full-time teachers employed at the school sign a petition opposing conversion and file the petition with the district clerk no later than 45 days before the district election on conversion.
Subd. 4. School council. Requires each charter school within a district to have a school council that has general charge of school operation. Requires the school to determine council membership.

Subd. 5. District board. Permits a charter district's governing board to contract with each charter school within the district to provide fee-based services to the charter school.

Subd. 6. Revenue allocation for charter schools. Requires all general education and special education revenue received by a district to be passed through to the charter schools in the district in proportion to the number of pupil units attending each charter school.

Subd. 7. District levy authority. Grants all levy authority available to the former school district to the charter school district. Requires the proceeds of the levies, except capital and debt levies, to be proportionately allocated among the charter school sites.

Subd. 8. Employment of district teachers. Permits a school within the newly formed charter district to employ any teachers and support staff employed by the school district. Provides a severance package to teachers and support staff that a school within the newly formed charter district does not hire.

Subd. 9. Applicable laws; release of the governing body. To the extent they are consistent with the provisions of this section, makes existing statutory provisions governing charter schools, including provisions affecting special education aid and other aid, grants and revenue, applicable to schools within a charter school district. Releases the governing body of the charter district from any power or duty delegated to charter schools under the statutory provisions governing charter schools.