
HOUSE BILL 1962

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Representatives Entenman, Dolan, Chapman, Corry, Lekanoff, Springer, Walen, Rule, Gilday, and Bateman

Read first time 01/13/22. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to extending the time frame for establishing
2 charter schools; amending RCW 28A.710.150; and creating a new
3 section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the population
6 of Washington state has become increasingly diverse over the last
7 several decades. The legislature also finds that as the demographics
8 of our state change, historically and currently marginalized
9 communities still do not have the same opportunities to meet parity
10 as their nonmarginalized counterparts across nearly every measure
11 including education, poverty, employment, health, and more.
12 Inequities based on race, ethnicity, gender, and other
13 characteristics continue to be deep, pervasive, and persistent, and
14 they come at a great economic and social cost.

15 The legislature finds that state government must identify and
16 coordinate effective strategies that focus on eliminating systemic
17 barriers for historically and currently marginalized groups and that
18 extending the time frame for the establishment of charter schools is
19 an important step toward promoting opportunities for communities that
20 have not always been well-served by traditional public schools.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.710.150 and 2016 c 241 s 115 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) A maximum of forty charter public schools may be established
4 under this chapter (~~over the five-year period commencing with April~~
5 ~~3, 2016~~), with the establishment period concluding April 3, 2027. No
6 more than eight charter schools may be established in any year during
7 the (~~five-year~~) establishment period, except that if in any year
8 fewer than eight charter schools are established, additional charter
9 schools, equal in number to the difference between the number
10 established in that year and eight, may be established in subsequent
11 years during the (~~five-year~~) establishment period.

12 (2) (a) To ensure compliance with the limits for establishing new
13 charter schools, certification from the state board of education must
14 be obtained before final authorization of a charter school.

15 (b) Within ten days of taking action to approve or deny an
16 application under RCW 28A.710.140, an authorizer must submit a report
17 of the action to the applicant and the state board of education. The
18 report must include a copy of the authorizer's resolution setting
19 forth the action taken, the reasons for the decision, and assurances
20 of compliance with the procedural requirements and application
21 elements under RCW 28A.710.130 and 28A.710.140. The authorizer must
22 also indicate whether the charter school is designed to enroll and
23 serve at-risk student populations. The state board of education must
24 establish, for each year in which charter schools may be authorized
25 as part of the timeline to be established pursuant to RCW
26 28A.710.140, the latest annual date by which the authorizer may
27 submit the report. The state board of education must send to each
28 authorizer notice of the date by which a report must be submitted at
29 least six months before the date established by the board.

30 (3) Upon the receipt of notice from an authorizer that a charter
31 school has been approved, the state board of education shall certify
32 whether the approval is in compliance with the limits on the maximum
33 number of charters allowed under subsection (1) of this section. If
34 the board receives simultaneous notification of approved charters
35 that exceed the annual allowable limits in subsection (1) of this
36 section, the board must select approved charters for implementation
37 through a lottery process, and must assign implementation dates
38 accordingly.

1 (4) The state board of education must notify authorizers when the
2 maximum allowable number of charter schools has been reached.

--- **END** ---