

ARKANSAS SENATE
83rd General Assembly - Regular Session, 2001
Amendment Form

Subtitle of Senate Bill No. 478

"AN ACT TO AMEND THE CHARTER SCHOOL LAW TO CHANGE THE FACILITY
DESCRIPTION, FUNDING METHOD, NOTICE REQUIREMENTS, AND OTHER
REQUIREMENTS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill No. 478.

Amend Senate Bill No. 478 as engrossed, S2/22/01:

Add Senator P. Malone as a co-sponsor

AND

Page 2, line 25, delete "(C)" and substitute "(C)(i)"

AND

Page 2, line 27, delete "superintendents of" and substitute "superintendents
and school board members of"

AND

Page 2, line 29, delete "superintendents of" and substitute "superintendents
and school board members of"

AND

Page 2, line 31, delete "will be located." and substitute the following:
"will be located.

(i) The letters to the school board members
required in subdivision (c)(1)(C)(i) shall only be required for each school
board member whose name and mailing address is provided to the petitioner by
an affected school district."

AND

Page 4, line 14, delete "innovative programs;~~and~~" and substitute the
following:
innovative programs; and written findings or statements received by the State

Board of Education from any public school district likely to be affected by the charter school."

AND

Add an additional section immediately following Section 8 to read as follows:
"SECTION 9. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 23, is amended by adding a new subchapter to read as follows:

6-23-601. Limited Charter School.

(a)(1) Any public school may petition the State Board of Education for a limited charter status for alternative comprehensive staffing and compensation programs, to be known as a limited charter school.

(2) A limited charter shall be for the purpose of instituting alternative staffing practices in accordance with a schedule approved by the State Board of Education.

(3) A limited charter shall be initially established for a period of no more than three (3) years and may be renewed on a one-year or multi-year basis, not to exceed three (3) years per charter renewal.

(b)(1) The petition shall contain the provisions of Title 6 of the Arkansas Code and the specific rules and regulations promulgated by the State Board of Education from which the public school will be exempt;

(2) The provisions from which the school district shall be exempt shall be limited to those provisions dealing with certified staffing practices at the school district;

(3) Describe a plan for school improvement that addresses how the school will improve student learning and meet the state education goals;

(4) Outline proposed performance criteria that will be used during the initial three-year period of the charter to measure the progress of the charter school in improving student learning and meeting or exceeding the state education goals; and

(5) The petition shall be reviewed and approved by the local school district board of directors and the State Board of Education.

(c)(1) Any petition to obtain limited charter school status approved by a local school district board of directors shall be forwarded by the local school district board of directors to the state board.

(2) If a local board of directors does not approve a public school's petition, the local school district board of directors shall inform the petitioners and faculty of the public school of the board's reasons for not approving the petition.

(d)(1) A certified teacher employed by a public school in the school year immediately preceding the effective date of a limited charter for a public school within that district may not be transferred to or be employed by the limited charter school over the certified teacher's objections, nor shall that objection be used as a basis to deny continuing employment within the district in another public school at a similar grade level.

(2) If the transfer of a teacher within a district is not possible because only one (1) school exists for the teacher's certification level, then the local school board shall call for a vote of the certified teachers in the proposed limited charter school site and proceed, at the local school board's option, with the charter school petition if a majority of the certified teachers approve the proposal.

(e)(1) Limited charter schools shall be evaluated annually by the

Department of Education based on criteria approved by the State Board of Education, including but not limited to student performance data, to determine progress in student achievement that has been achieved by the limited charter school.

(2) The department shall annually report its evaluation to the state board.

(3) Based upon that evaluation, the state board may revoke a limited charter.

(f) The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this subchapter.

AND

Appropriately renumber the subsequent sections.

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and _____

By: Senator Brown

KAS/TRB

TRB288

Secretary