

## Senate Bill No. 740

### CHAPTER 892

An act to amend Sections 47605 and 47612.5 of, and to add Sections 47614.5, 47616.7, and 47634.2 to, the Education Code, relating to charter schools.

[Approved by Governor October 13, 2001. Filed  
with Secretary of State October 14, 2001.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 740, O'Connell. Charter schools.

(1) Under the Charter Schools Act, a charter school that provides independent study is required to comply with the provisions of law that are otherwise applicable to the governing board of a school district or a county office of education that offers independent study.

This bill would authorize a charter school that has an approved charter to receive funding for nonclassroom-based instruction, as defined for that purpose, only if a determination for funding is made by the State Board of Education. The bill would require the State Board of Education to adopt regulations, on or before February 1, 2002, that define and establish general rules governing nonclassroom-based instruction that apply to all charter schools and to the process for determining funding of nonclassroom-based instruction offered by charter schools. The bill would make the determination for funding subject to any conditions or limitations that the state board may prescribe. The bill would authorize the State Board of Education to adopt those regulations as emergency regulations.

(2) The act states the intent of the people that public school facilities should be shared fairly among all public school pupils, including those in charter schools. The act requires each school district to make available to each charter school operating in a school district, facilities sufficient for the charter school to accommodate all of the charter school's in-district students in conditions reasonably equivalent to those in which the pupils would be accommodated if they were attending other public schools of the district and authorizes the school district to charge the charter school a specified amount for the use of the facility.

This bill would establish the Charter School Facility Grant Program, administered by the State Department of Education, for the purpose of providing assistance with facilities rent and lease costs for pupils in charter schools. The bill would establish pupil enrollment priority provisions and would require that eligible schools receive an amount up



to but no more than \$750 per unit of average daily attendance, as certified at the second principal apportionment, to reimburse an amount up to but not more than 75% of the annual facilities rent and lease costs, as prescribed. The bill would establish criteria for eligibility for funding under the program and would impose limitations on the use of funds received under the program. The bill would state the intent of the Legislature that \$10,000,000 be appropriated for the Charter School Facility Grant Program for the 2001–02, 2002–03, and 2003–04 fiscal years.

(3) The act requires in specified years, the Superintendent of Public Instructions, to make certain apportionments on behalf of charter schools including an amount for each unit of regular average daily attendance in the charter school that is equal to the current fiscal year base revenue limit for the school district to which the charter petition was submitted. The act also requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to annually compute a general-purpose entitlement, funded from a combination of state and local funds, for each charter school, as specified.

This bill would, notwithstanding any other provision of law, authorize the State Board of Education to adjust the amount of funding allocated on the basis of average daily attendance generated through charter school nonclassroom-based instruction, as defined for this purpose, as specified.

(4) The act requires that the Legislative Analyst conduct, or contract for, an evaluation of the effectiveness of the act to report to the Governor and the Legislature by July 1, 2003.

This bill would require the evaluation to include an analysis of the funding system for charter schools that offer nonclassroom-based instruction.

(5) This bill would incorporate additional changes in Section 47605 of the Education Code proposed by SB 675, to be operative only if SB 675 and this bill are both enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2002, and this bill is enacted last.

(6) This bill would incorporate additional changes in Section 47612.5 of the Education Code proposed by SB 955, to be operative only if SB 955 and this bill are both enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2002, and this bill is enacted last.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 47605 of the Education Code is amended to read:



47605. (a) (1) Except as set forth in paragraph (2), a petition for the establishment of a charter school within any school district may be circulated by any one or more persons seeking to establish the charter school. The petition may be submitted to the governing board of the school district for review after either of the following conditions are met:

(A) The petition has been signed by a number of parents or guardians of pupils that is equivalent to at least one-half of the number of pupils that the charter school estimates will enroll in the school for its first year of operation.

(B) The petition has been signed by a number of teachers that is equivalent to at least one-half of the number of teachers that the charter school estimates will be employed at the school during its first year of operation.

(2) In the case of a petition for the establishment of a charter school through the conversion of an existing public school, that would not be eligible for a loan pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 41365, the petition may be circulated by any one or more persons seeking to establish the converted charter school. The petition may be submitted to the governing board of the school district for review after the petition has been signed by not less than 50 percent of the permanent status teachers currently employed at the public school to be converted.

(3) A petition shall include a prominent statement that a signature on the petition means that the parent or guardian is meaningfully interested in having his or her child, or ward, attend the charter school, or in the case of a teacher's signature, means that the teacher is meaningfully interested in teaching at the charter school. The proposed charter shall be attached to the petition.

(b) No later than 30 days after receiving a petition, in accordance with subdivision (a), the governing board of the school district shall hold a public hearing on the provisions of the charter, at which time the governing board of the school district shall consider the level of support for the petition by teachers employed by the district, other employees of the district, and parents. Following review of the petition and the public hearing, the governing board of the school district shall either grant or deny the charter within 60 days of receipt of the petition, provided, however, that the date may be extended by an additional 30 days if both parties agree to the extension. In reviewing petitions for the establishment of charter schools pursuant to this section, the chartering authority shall be guided by the intent of the Legislature that charter schools are and should become an integral part of the California educational system and that establishment of charter schools should be encouraged. A school district governing board shall grant a charter for the operation of a school under this part if it is satisfied that granting the



charter is consistent with sound educational practice. The governing board of the school district shall not deny a petition for the establishment of a charter school unless it makes written factual findings, specific to the particular petition, setting forth specific facts to support one or more of the following findings:

(1) The charter school presents an unsound educational program for the pupils to be enrolled in the charter school.

(2) The petitioners are demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition.

(3) The petition does not contain the number of signatures required by subdivision (a).

(4) The petition does not contain an affirmation of each of the conditions described in subdivision (d).

(5) The petition does not contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of all of the following:

(A) A description of the educational program of the school, designed, among other things, to identify those whom the school is attempting to educate, what it means to be an “educated person” in the 21st century, and how learning best occurs. The goals identified in that program shall include the objective of enabling pupils to become self-motivated, competent, and lifelong learners.

(B) The measurable pupil outcomes identified for use by the charter school. “Pupil outcomes,” for purposes of this part, means the extent to which all pupils of the school demonstrate that they have attained the skills, knowledge, and attitudes specified as goals in the school’s educational program.

(C) The method by which pupil progress in meeting those pupil outcomes is to be measured.

(D) The governance structure of the school, including, but not limited to, the process to be followed by the school to ensure parental involvement.

(E) The qualifications to be met by individuals to be employed by the school.

(F) The procedures that the school will follow to ensure the health and safety of pupils and staff. These procedures shall include the requirement that each employee of the school furnish the school with a criminal record summary as described in Section 44237.

(G) The means by which the school will achieve a racial and ethnic balance among its pupils that is reflective of the general population residing within the territorial jurisdiction of the school district to which the charter petition is submitted.

(H) Admission requirements, if applicable.



(I) The manner in which annual, independent, financial audits shall be conducted, which shall employ generally accepted accounting principles, and the manner in which audit exceptions and deficiencies shall be resolved to the satisfaction of the chartering authority.

(J) The procedures by which pupils can be suspended or expelled.

(K) The manner by which staff members of the charter schools will be covered by the State Teachers' Retirement System, the Public Employees' Retirement System, or federal social security.

(L) The public school attendance alternatives for pupils residing within the school district who choose not to attend charter schools.

(M) A description of the rights of any employee of the school district upon leaving the employment of the school district to work in a charter school, and of any rights of return to the school district after employment at a charter school.

(N) The procedures to be followed by the charter school and the entity granting the charter to resolve disputes relating to provisions of the charter.

(O) A declaration whether or not the charter school shall be deemed the exclusive public school employer of the employees of the charter school for the purposes of the Educational Employment Relations Act (Chapter 10.7 (commencing with Section 3540) of Division 4 of Title 1 of the Government Code).

(c) (1) Charter schools shall meet all statewide standards and conduct the pupil assessments required pursuant to Section 60605 and any other statewide standards authorized in statute or pupil assessments applicable to pupils in noncharter public schools.

(2) Charter schools shall on a regular basis consult with their parents and teachers regarding the school's educational programs.

(d) (1) In addition to any other requirement imposed under this part, a charter school shall be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operations, shall not charge tuition, and shall not discriminate against any pupil on the basis of ethnicity, national origin, gender, or disability. Except as provided in paragraph (2), admission to a charter school shall not be determined according to the place of residence of the pupil, or of his or her parent or guardian, within this state, except that any existing public school converting partially or entirely to a charter school under this part shall adopt and maintain a policy giving admission preference to pupils who reside within the former attendance area of that public school.

(2) (A) A charter school shall admit all pupils who wish to attend the school.

(B) However, if the number of pupils who wish to attend the charter school exceeds the school's capacity, attendance, except for existing



pupils of the charter school, shall be determined by a public random drawing. Preference shall be extended to pupils currently attending the charter school and pupils who reside in the district except as provided for in Section 47614.5. Other preferences may be permitted by the chartering authority on an individual school basis and only if consistent with the law.

(C) In the event of a drawing, the chartering authority shall make reasonable efforts to accommodate the growth of the charter school and, in no event, shall take any action to impede the charter school from expanding enrollment to meet pupil demand.

(e) No governing board of a school district shall require any employee of the school district to be employed in a charter school.

(f) No governing board of a school district shall require any pupil enrolled in the school district to attend a charter school.

(g) The governing board of a school district shall require that the petitioner or petitioners provide information regarding the proposed operation and potential effects of the school, including, but not limited to, the facilities to be utilized by the school, the manner in which administrative services of the school are to be provided, and potential civil liability effects, if any, upon the school and upon the school district. The petitioner or petitioners shall also be required to provide financial statements that include a proposed first-year operational budget, including startup costs, and cash-flow and financial projections for the first three years of operation.

(h) In reviewing petitions for the establishment of charter schools within the school district, the school district governing board shall give preference to petitions that demonstrate the capability to provide comprehensive learning experiences to pupils identified by the petitioner or petitioners as academically low achieving pursuant to the standards established by the State Department of Education under Section 54032.

(i) Upon the approval of the petition by the governing board of the school district, the petitioner or petitioners shall provide written notice of that approval, including a copy of the petition, to the State Board of Education.

(j) (1) If the governing board of a school district denies a petition, the petitioner may elect to submit the petition for the establishment of a charter school to either the county board of education or directly to the State Board of Education. The county board of education or the State Board of Education, as the case may be, shall review the petition pursuant to subdivision (b). If the petitioner elects to submit a petition for establishment of a charter school to the county board of education and the county board of education denies the petition, the petitioner may file



a petition for establishment of a charter school with the State Board of Education.

(2) In assuming its role as a chartering agency, the State Board of Education shall develop criteria to be used for the review and approval of charter school petitions presented to the State Board of Education. The criteria shall address all elements required for charter approval, as identified in subdivision (b) of Section 47605 and shall define “reasonably comprehensive” as used in paragraph (5) of subdivision (b) of Section 47605 in a way that is consistent with the intent of the Charter Schools Act of 1992. Upon satisfactory completion of the criteria, the State Board of Education shall adopt the criteria on or before June 30, 2001.

(3) A charter school for which a charter is granted by either the county board of education or the State Board of Education pursuant to this subdivision shall qualify fully as a charter school for all funding and other purposes of this part.

(4) If either the county board of education or the State Board of Education fails to act on a petition within 120 days of receipt, the decision of the governing board of the school district, to deny a petition shall, thereafter, be subject to judicial review.

(5) The State Board of Education shall adopt regulations implementing this subdivision.

(6) Upon the approval of the petition by the county board of education, the petitioner or petitioners shall provide written notice of that approval, including a copy of the petition to the State Board of Education.

(k) (1) The State Board of Education may, by mutual agreement, designate its supervisory and oversight responsibilities for a charter school approved by the State Board of Education to any local education agency in the county in which the charter school is located or to the governing board of the school district that first denied the petition.

(2) The designated local education agency shall have all monitoring and supervising authority of a chartering agency, including, but not limited to, powers and duties set forth in Section 47607, except the power of revocation, which shall remain with the State Board of Education.

(3) A charter school that has been granted its charter by the State Board of Education and elects to seek renewal of its charter shall, prior to expiration of the charter, submit its petition for renewal to the governing board of the school district that initially denied the charter. If the governing board of the school district denies the school’s petition for renewal, the school may petition the State Board of Education for renewal of its charter.



(l) Teachers in charter schools shall be required to hold a Commission on Teacher Credentialing certificate, permit, or other document equivalent to that which a teacher in other public schools would be required to hold. These documents shall be maintained on file at the charter school and shall be subject to periodic inspection by the chartering authority. It is the intent of the Legislature that charter schools be given flexibility with regard to noncore, noncollege preparatory courses.

SEC. 1.5. Section 47605 of the Education Code is amended to read:

47605. (a) (1) Except as set forth in paragraph (2), a petition for the establishment of a charter school within any school district may be circulated by any one or more persons seeking to establish the charter school. The petition may be submitted to the governing board of the school district for review after either of the following conditions are met:

(A) The petition has been signed by a number of parents or guardians of pupils that is equivalent to at least one-half of the number of pupils that the charter school estimates will enroll in the school for its first year of operation.

(B) The petition has been signed by a number of teachers that is equivalent to at least one-half of the number of teachers that the charter school estimates will be employed at the school during its first year of operation.

(2) In the case of a petition for the establishment of a charter school through the conversion of an existing public school, that would not be eligible for a loan pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 41365, the petition may be circulated by any one or more persons seeking to establish the converted charter school. The petition may be submitted to the governing board of the school district for review after the petition has been signed by not less than 50 percent of the permanent status teachers currently employed at the public school to be converted.

(3) A petition shall include a prominent statement that a signature on the petition means that the parent or guardian is meaningfully interested in having his or her child, or ward, attend the charter school, or in the case of a teacher's signature, means that the teacher is meaningfully interested in teaching at the charter school. The proposed charter shall be attached to the petition.

(b) No later than 30 days after receiving a petition, in accordance with subdivision (a), the governing board of the school district shall hold a public hearing on the provisions of the charter, at which time the governing board of the school district shall consider the level of support for the petition by teachers employed by the district, other employees of the district, and parents. Following review of the petition and the public hearing, the governing board of the school district shall either grant or





deny the charter within 60 days of receipt of the petition, provided, however, that the date may be extended by an additional 30 days if both parties agree to the extension. In reviewing petitions for the establishment of charter schools pursuant to this section, the chartering authority shall be guided by the intent of the Legislature that charter schools are and should become an integral part of the California educational system and that establishment of charter schools should be encouraged. A school district governing board shall grant a charter for the operation of a school under this part if it is satisfied that granting the charter is consistent with sound educational practice. The governing board of the school district shall not deny a petition for the establishment of a charter school unless it makes written factual findings, specific to the particular petition, setting forth specific facts to support one or more of the following findings:

(1) The charter school presents an unsound educational program for the pupils to be enrolled in the charter school.

(2) The petitioners are demonstrably unlikely to successfully implement the program set forth in the petition.

(3) The petition does not contain the number of signatures required by subdivision (a).

(4) The petition does not contain an affirmation of each of the conditions described in subdivision (d).

(5) The petition does not contain reasonably comprehensive descriptions of all of the following:

(A) A description of the educational program of the school, designed, among other things, to identify those whom the school is attempting to educate, what it means to be an “educated person” in the 21st century, and how learning best occurs. The goals identified in that program shall include the objective of enabling pupils to become self-motivated, competent, and lifelong learners.

(B) The measurable pupil outcomes identified for use by the charter school. “Pupil outcomes,” for purposes of this part, means the extent to which all pupils of the school demonstrate that they have attained the skills, knowledge, and attitudes specified as goals in the school’s educational program.

(C) The method by which pupil progress in meeting those pupil outcomes is to be measured.

(D) The governance structure of the school, including, but not limited to, the process to be followed by the school to ensure parental involvement.

(E) The qualifications to be met by individuals to be employed by the school.



(F) The procedures that the school will follow to ensure the health and safety of pupils and staff. These procedures shall include the requirement that each employee of the school furnish the school with a criminal record summary as described in Section 44237.

(G) The means by which the school will achieve a racial and ethnic balance among its pupils that is reflective of the general population residing within the territorial jurisdiction of the school district to which the charter petition is submitted.

(H) Admission requirements, if applicable.

(I) The manner in which annual, independent, financial audits shall be conducted, which shall employ generally accepted accounting principles, and the manner in which audit exceptions and deficiencies shall be resolved to the satisfaction of the chartering authority.

(J) The procedures by which pupils can be suspended or expelled.

(K) The manner by which staff members of the charter schools will be covered by the State Teachers' Retirement System, the Public Employees' Retirement System, or federal social security.

(L) The public school attendance alternatives for pupils residing within the school district who choose not to attend charter schools.

(M) A description of the rights of any employee of the school district upon leaving the employment of the school district to work in a charter school, and of any rights of return to the school district after employment at a charter school.

(N) The procedures to be followed by the charter school and the entity granting the charter to resolve disputes relating to provisions of the charter.

(O) A declaration whether or not the charter school shall be deemed the exclusive public school employer of the employees of the charter school for the purposes of the Educational Employment Relations Act (Chapter 10.7 (commencing with Section 3540) of Division 4 of Title 1 of the Government Code).

(c) (1) Charter schools shall meet all statewide standards and conduct the pupil assessments required pursuant to Section 60605 and any other statewide standards authorized in statute or pupil assessments applicable to pupils in noncharter public schools.

(2) Charter schools shall on a regular basis consult with their parents and teachers regarding the school's educational programs.

(d) (1) In addition to any other requirement imposed under this part, a charter school shall be nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operations, shall not charge tuition, and shall not discriminate against any pupil on the basis of ethnicity, national origin, gender, or disability. Except as provided in paragraph (2), admission to a charter school shall not be determined



according to the place of residence of the pupil, or of his or her parent or guardian, within this state, except that any existing public school converting partially or entirely to a charter school under this part shall adopt and maintain a policy giving admission preference to pupils who reside within the former attendance area of that public school.

(2) (A) A charter school shall admit all pupils who wish to attend the school.

(B) However, if the number of pupils who wish to attend the charter school exceeds the school's capacity, attendance, except for existing pupils of the charter school, shall be determined by a public random drawing. Preference shall be extended to pupils currently attending the charter school and pupils who reside in the district except as provided for in Section 47614.5. Other preferences may be permitted by the chartering authority on an individual school basis and only if consistent with the law.

(C) In the event of a drawing, the chartering authority shall make reasonable efforts to accommodate the growth of the charter school and, in no event, shall take any action to impede the charter school from expanding enrollment to meet pupil demand.

(e) No governing board of a school district shall require any employee of the school district to be employed in a charter school.

(f) No governing board of a school district shall require any pupil enrolled in the school district to attend a charter school.

(g) The governing board of a school district shall require that the petitioner or petitioners provide information regarding the proposed operation and potential effects of the school, including, but not limited to, the facilities to be utilized by the school, the manner in which administrative services of the school are to be provided, and potential civil liability effects, if any, upon the school and upon the school district. The petitioner or petitioners shall also be required to provide financial statements that include a proposed first-year operational budget, including startup costs, and cash-flow and financial projections for the first three years of operation.

(h) In reviewing petitions for the establishment of charter schools within the school district, the school district governing board shall give preference to petitions that demonstrate the capability to provide comprehensive learning experiences to pupils identified by the petitioner or petitioners as academically low achieving pursuant to the standards established by the State Department of Education under Section 54032.

(i) Upon the approval of the petition by the governing board of the school district, the petitioner or petitioners shall provide written notice



of that approval, including a copy of the petition, to the State Board of Education.

(j) (1) If the governing board of a school district denies a petition, the petitioner may elect to submit the petition for the establishment of a charter school to either the county board of education or directly to the State Board of Education. The county board of education or the State Board of Education, as the case may be, shall review the petition pursuant to subdivision (b). If the petitioner elects to submit a petition for establishment of a charter school to the county board of education and the county board of education denies the petition, the petitioner may file a petition for establishment of a charter school with the State Board of Education.

(2) In assuming its role as a chartering agency, the State Board of Education shall develop criteria to be used for the review and approval of charter school petitions presented to the State Board of Education. The criteria shall address all elements required for charter approval, as identified in subdivision (b) of Section 47605 and shall define “reasonably comprehensive” as used in paragraph (5) of subdivision (b) of Section 47605 in a way that is consistent with the intent of the Charter Schools Act of 1992. Upon satisfactory completion of the criteria, the State Board of Education shall adopt the criteria on or before June 30, 2001.

(3) A charter school for which a charter is granted by either the county board of education or the State Board of Education pursuant to this subdivision shall qualify fully as a charter school for all funding and other purposes of this part.

(4) If either the county board of education or the State Board of Education fails to act on a petition within 120 days of receipt, the decision of the governing board of the school district, to deny a petition shall, thereafter, be subject to judicial review.

(5) The State Board of Education shall adopt regulations implementing this subdivision.

(6) Upon the approval of the petition by the county board of education, the petitioner or petitioners shall provide written notice of that approval, including a copy of the petition to the State Board of Education.

(k) (1) The State Board of Education may, by mutual agreement, designate its supervisory and oversight responsibilities for a charter school approved by the State Board of Education to any local education agency in the county in which the charter school is located or to the governing board of the school district that first denied the petition.

(2) The designated local education agency shall have all monitoring and supervising authority of a chartering agency, including, but not



limited to, powers and duties set forth in Section 47607, except the power of revocation, which shall remain with the State Board of Education.

(3) A charter school that has been granted its charter by the State Board of Education and elects to seek renewal of its charter shall, prior to expiration of the charter, submit its petition for renewal to the governing board of the school district that initially denied the charter. If the governing board of the school district denies the school's petition for renewal, the school may petition the State Board of Education for renewal of its charter.

(l) Teachers in charter schools shall be required to hold a Commission on Teacher Credentialing certificate, permit, or other document equivalent to that which a teacher in other public schools would be required to hold. These documents shall be maintained on file at the charter school and shall be subject to periodic inspection by the chartering authority. It is the intent of the Legislature that charter schools be given flexibility with regard to noncore, noncollege preparatory courses.

(m) A charter school shall transmit a copy of its annual, independent, financial audit report for the preceding fiscal year, as described in subparagraph (I) of paragraph (5) of subdivision (b), to its chartering entity and the State Department of Education by December 15 of each year. This subdivision shall not apply if the audit of the charter school is encompassed in the audit of the chartering entity pursuant to Section 41020.

SEC. 2. Section 47612.5 of the Education Code is amended to read:

47612.5. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a charter school shall do all of the following:

(1) Offer, at a minimum, the same number of minutes of instruction set forth in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 46201 for the appropriate grade levels.

(2) Maintain written contemporaneous records that document all pupil attendance and make these records available for audit and inspection.

(3) Certify that its pupils have participated in the state testing programs specified in Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 60600) of Part 33 in the same manner as other pupils attending public schools as a condition of apportionment of state funding.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and except to the extent inconsistent with this section and Section 47634.2, a charter school that provides independent study shall comply with Article 5.5 (commencing with Section 51745) of Chapter 5 of Part 28 and implementing regulations adopted thereunder. The State Board of



Education shall adopt regulations that apply this article to charter schools. To the extent that these regulations concern the qualifications of instructional personnel, the State Board of Education shall be guided by subdivision (l) of Section 47605.

(c) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and except as provided in paragraph (1) of subdivision (d), a charter school that has an approved charter may receive funding for nonclassroom-based instruction only if a determination for funding is made pursuant to Section 47634.2 by the State Board of Education. The determination for funding shall be subject to any conditions or limitations the State Board of Education may prescribe. The State Board of Education shall adopt regulations on or before February 1, 2002, that define and establish general rules governing nonclassroom-based instruction that apply to all charter schools and to the process for determining funding of nonclassroom-based instruction by charter schools offering nonclassroom-based instruction other than the nonclassroom-based instruction allowed by paragraph (1) of subdivision (d). Nonclassroom-based instruction includes, but is not limited to, independent study, home study, work study, and distance and computer-based education. In prescribing any conditions or limitations relating to the qualifications of instructional personnel, the State Board of Education shall be guided by subdivision (l) of Section 47605.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 47634.2, a charter school that receives a determination pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 47634.2 is not required to reapply annually for a funding determination of its nonclassroom-based instruction program if an update of the information the State Board of Education reviewed when initially determining funding would not require material revision, as that term is defined in regulations adopted by the board. Notwithstanding any provision of law, the State Board of Education may require a charter school to provide updated information at any time it determines that a review of that information is necessary. The State Board of Education may terminate a determination for funding if updated or additional information requested by the board is not made available to the board by the charter school within a reasonable amount of time or if the information otherwise supports termination. A determination for funding pursuant to Section 47634.2 may not exceed five years.

(3) A charter school that offers nonclassroom-based instruction in excess of the amount authorized by paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) is subject to the determination for funding requirement of Section 47634.2 to receive funding each time its charter is renewed or materially revised pursuant to Section 47607. A charter school that materially revises its



charter to offer nonclassroom-based instruction in excess of the amount authorized by paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) is subject to the determination for funding requirement of Section 47634.2.

(d) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and as a condition of apportionment, “classroom-based instruction” in a charter school, for the purposes of this part, occurs only when charter school pupils are engaged in educational activities required of those pupils and are under the immediate supervision and control of an employee of the charter school who possesses a valid teaching certification in accordance with subdivision (l) of Section 47605. For purposes of calculating average daily attendance for classroom-based instruction apportionments, at least 80 percent of the instructional time offered by the charter school shall be at the schoolsite, and the charter school shall require the attendance of all pupils for whom a classroom-based apportionment is claimed at the schoolsite for at least 80 percent of the minimum instructional time required to be offered pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 47612.5.

(2) For the purposes of this part, “nonclassroom instruction” or “nonclassroom-based instruction” means instruction that does not meet the requirements specified in paragraph (1). The State Board of Education may adopt regulations pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) specifying other conditions or limitations on what constitutes nonclassroom-based instruction, as it deems appropriate and consistent with this part.

(3) For purposes of this part, a schoolsite is a facility that is used principally for classroom instruction.

SEC. 2.5. Section 47612.5 of the Education Code is amended to read:

47612.5. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and as a condition of apportionment, a charter school shall do all of the following:

(1) Offer, at a minimum, the same number of minutes of instruction set forth in paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 46201 for the appropriate grade levels.

(2) Maintain written contemporaneous records that document all pupil attendance and make these records available for audit and inspection.

(3) Certify that its pupils have participated in the state testing programs specified in Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 60600) of Part 33 in the same manner as other pupils attending public schools as a condition of apportionment of state funding.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and except to the extent inconsistent with this section and Section 47634.2, a charter



school that provides independent study shall comply with Article 5.5 (commencing with Section 51745) of Chapter 5 of Part 28 and implementing regulations adopted thereunder. The State Board of Education shall adopt regulations that apply this article to charter schools. To the extent that these regulations concern the qualifications of instructional personnel, the State Board of Education shall be guided by subdivision (l) of Section 47605.

(c) A reduction in apportionment made pursuant to subdivision (a) shall be proportional to the magnitude of the exception that causes the reduction. For purposes of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a), for each charter school that fails to offer pupils the minimum number of minutes of instruction specified in that paragraph, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall withhold from the charter school's apportionment for average daily attendance of the affected pupils, by grade level, the sum of that apportionment multiplied by the percentage of the minimum number of minutes of instruction at each grade level that the charter school failed to offer.

(d) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and except as provided in paragraph (1) of subdivision (e), a charter school that has an approved charter may receive funding for nonclassroom-based instruction only if a determination for funding is made pursuant to Section 47634.2 by the State Board of Education. The determination for funding shall be subject to any conditions or limitations the State Board of Education may prescribe. The State Board of Education shall adopt regulations on or before February 1, 2002, that define and establish general rules governing nonclassroom-based instruction that apply to all charter schools and to the process for determining funding of nonclassroom-based instruction by charter schools offering nonclassroom-based instruction other than the nonclassroom-based instruction allowed by paragraph (1) of subdivision (e). Nonclassroom-based instruction includes, but is not limited to, independent study, home study, work study, and distance and computer-based education. In prescribing any conditions or limitations relating to the qualifications of instructional personnel, the State Board of Education shall be guided by subdivision (l) of Section 47605.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 47634.2, a charter school that receives a determination pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 47634.2 is not required to reapply annually for a funding determination of its nonclassroom-based instruction program if an update of the information the State Board of Education reviewed when initially determining funding would not require material revision, as that term is defined in regulations adopted by the board. Notwithstanding any provision of law, the State Board of Education may





require a charter school to provide updated information at any time it determines that a review of that information is necessary. The State Board of Education may terminate a determination for funding if updated or additional information requested by the board is not made available to the board by the charter school within a reasonable amount of time or if the information otherwise supports termination. A determination for funding pursuant to Section 47634.2 may not exceed five years.

(3) A charter school that offers nonclassroom-based instruction in excess of the amount authorized by paragraph (1) of subdivision (e) is subject to the determination for funding requirement of Section 47634.2 to receive funding each time its charter is renewed or materially revised pursuant to Section 47607. A charter school that materially revises its charter to offer nonclassroom-based instruction in excess of the amount authorized by paragraph (1) of subdivision (e) is subject to the determination for funding requirement of Section 47634.2.

(e) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and as a condition of apportionment, “classroom-based instruction” in a charter school, for the purposes of this part, occurs only when charter school pupils are engaged in educational activities required of those pupils and are under the immediate supervision and control of an employee of the charter school who possesses a valid teaching certification in accordance with subdivision (l) of Section 47605. For purposes of calculating average daily attendance for classroom-based instruction apportionments, at least 80 percent of the instructional time offered by the charter school shall be at the schoolsite, and the charter school shall require the attendance of all pupils for whom a classroom-based apportionment is claimed at the schoolsite for at least 80 percent of the minimum instructional time required to be offered pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 47612.5.

(2) For the purposes of this part, “nonclassroom instruction” or “nonclassroom-based instruction” means instruction that does not meet the requirements specified in paragraph (1). The State Board of Education may adopt regulations pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) specifying other conditions or limitations on what constitutes nonclassroom-based instruction, as it deems appropriate and consistent with this part.

(3) For purposes of this part, a schoolsite is a facility that is used principally for classroom instruction.

SEC. 3. Section 47614.5 is added to the Education Code, to read:

47614.5. (a) The Charter School Facility Grant Program is hereby established and shall be administered by the State Department of



Education. This grant program is intended to provide assistance with facilities rent and lease costs for pupils in charter schools.

(b) Subject to the annual Budget Act, eligible schools shall receive an amount of up to, but no more than, seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750) per unit of average daily attendance, as certified at the second principal apportionment, to reimburse an amount of up to, but no more than, 75 percent of the annual facilities rent and lease costs for the charter school. In any fiscal year, if the funds appropriated for the purposes of this section by the annual Budget Act are insufficient to fund the approved amounts fully, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall apportion the available funds on a pro rata basis.

(c) The State Department of Education shall do all of the following:

(1) Inform charter schools of this program.

(2) Upon application by a charter school, determine eligibility, based on the geographic location of the charter schoolsite. Charter schoolsites physically located in the attendance area of a public elementary school in which 70 percent or more of pupil enrollment is eligible for free or reduced price meals are eligible for funding pursuant to this section. Eligibility for funding shall not be limited to the grade level or levels served by the school whose attendance area is used to determine eligibility.

(3) Inform charter schools of their grant eligibility.

(4) Reimburse charter schools for eligible expenditures in a timely manner.

(d) Funding pursuant to this section shall not be apportioned for the following:

(1) Units of average daily attendance generated through nonclassroom-based instruction as defined by paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 47612.5 or that does not comply with conditions or limitations set forth in regulations adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to this section.

(2) Charter schools occupying existing school district or county office of education facilities.

(3) Charter schools receiving reasonably equivalent facilities from their chartering authority pursuant to Section 47614.

(e) Funds made available pursuant to this section shall be used only for costs associated with facilities rents and leases, consistent with the definitions used in the California School Accounting Manual. These costs may include, but are not limited to, costs associated with remodeling buildings, deferred maintenance, initially installing or extending service systems and other built-in equipment, and improving sites.



(f) If the number of pupils who wish to attend a charter school that applies for and receives a grant pursuant to this section exceeds the school's capacity, preference shall be extended to pupils currently attending the charter school and pupils who reside in the elementary school attendance area in which the charter school is located.

(g) If an existing charter school located in an elementary attendance area in which less than 50 percent of pupil enrollment is eligible for free or reduced price meals relocates to an attendance area identified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (c), admissions preference shall be given to pupils who reside in the elementary school attendance area into which the charter school is relocating.

(h) For each fiscal year, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall annually report to the State Board of Education regarding the use of any funds that have been made available to each charter school from the grant program established pursuant to this section.

(i) It is the intent of the Legislature that ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) be appropriated for the Charter School Facility Grant Program for the grants authorized under this section for the 2001–02, 2002–03, and 2003–04 fiscal years.

SEC. 4. Section 47616.7 is added to the Education Code, to read:

47616.7. The evaluation provided for in Section 47616.5 shall include an analysis of the funding system for charter schools that offer nonclassroom-based instruction. The evaluation shall also examine the effectiveness of the State Board of Education's process, as provided for in Sections 47612.5 and 47634.2, for approving funding for charter schools offering nonclassroom-based instruction.

SEC. 5. Section 47634.2 is added to the Education Code, to read:

47634.2. (a) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the amount of funding to be allocated to a charter school on the basis of average daily attendance that is generated by pupils engaged in nonclassroom-based instruction, as defined by paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 47612.5, including funding provided on the basis of average daily attendance pursuant to Sections 47613.1, 47633, 47634, and 47664, shall be adjusted by the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education shall adopt regulations setting forth criteria for the determination of funding for nonclassroom-based instruction, at a minimum the regulation shall specify that the nonclassroom-based instruction is conducted for the instructional benefit of the student and substantially dedicated to that function. In developing these criteria and determining the amount of funding to be allocated to a charter school pursuant to this section, the State Board of Education shall consider, among other factors it deems appropriate, the amount of the charter school's total budget expended on certificated



employee salaries and benefits and on schoolsites, as defined in paragraph (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 47612.5, and the teacher-to-pupil ratio in the school.

(2) For the 2001–02 fiscal year only, the amount of funding determined by the State Board of Education pursuant to this section shall not be less than 90 percent of the unadjusted amount to which a charter school would otherwise be entitled on the basis of average daily attendance.

(3) For the 2002–03 fiscal year, the amount of funding determined by the State Board of Education pursuant to this section shall not be more than 80 percent of the unadjusted amount to which a charter school would otherwise be entitled, unless the State Board of Education determines that a greater or lesser amount is appropriate based on the criteria specified in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a).

(4) For the 2003–04 fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount of funding determined by the State Board of Education pursuant to this section shall not be more than 70 percent of the unadjusted amount to which a charter school would otherwise be entitled, unless the State Board of Education determines that a greater or lesser amount is appropriate based on the criteria specified in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a).

(5) This section does not authorize the board to adjust the amount of funding a charter school receives on the basis of average daily attendance generated through classroom-based instruction, as defined for purposes of calculating average daily attendance for classroom-based instruction apportionments by paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 47612.5.

(b) (1) The State Board of Education shall appoint an advisory committee to recommend criteria to the board in accordance with this section if it has not done so by the effective date of the act adding this section. The advisory committee shall include, but is not limited to, representatives from school district superintendents, charter schools, teachers, parents, members of the governing boards of school districts, county superintendents of schools, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

(2) If a charter school submits a substantially complete request for a determination for funding by February 13, 2002, and the State Board of Education does not act on that request by March 19, 2002, full funding is automatically granted for the 2001–02 fiscal year, but the charter school shall reapply for a determination for funding for the 2002–03 fiscal year.

(3) The determination for funding shall be on a percentage basis and the superintendent shall implement the determination for funding by reducing the charter school's reported average daily attendance by the



determination for funding percentage specified by the State Board of Education.

(4) If the State Board of Education denies request for a determination for funding or provides a reduction as authorized by subdivision (a), the board shall, in writing, give the reasons for its denial or reduction and, if appropriate, may describe how any deficiencies or problems may be addressed.

(c) Each charter school offering nonclassroom-based instruction shall, in each report provided to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for apportionment purposes, identify the portion of its average daily attendance that is generated through nonclassroom-based instruction as defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 47612.5.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, charter schools shall be subject, with regard to subdivisions (c) and (d) of Section 47612.5 and this section, to audits conducted pursuant to Section 41020.

SEC. 6. (a) The State Board of Education may adopt regulations for the purposes of Section 47612.5, 47614.5, 47634.2 or other sections as necessary to effectively implement this act as emergency regulations in accordance with Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code. For the purposes of the Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340), Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 11370), Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 11400), and Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code), including Section 11349.6 of the Government Code, the adoption of the regulations shall be deemed to be an emergency and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, or general welfare, notwithstanding subdivision (e) of Section 11346.1 of the Government Code. Notwithstanding subdivision (e) of Section 11346.1 of the Government Code, any regulation adopted pursuant to this section shall not remain in effect more than 180 days unless the State Board of Education complies with Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, as required by subdivision (e) of Section 11346.1 of the Government Code.

(b) It is the intent of the Legislature that, for purposes of making the computations required by Section 8 of Article XVI of the California Constitution, appropriations made to implement Section 47614.5 of the Education Code be deemed to be “General Fund” revenues allocated to school districts as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 41202 of the Education Code for the 2001–02 fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter and included within the “total allocations to school districts and community college districts from General Fund proceeds of taxes



appropriated pursuant to Article XIII B” as defined in subdivision (e) of Section 41202 of the Education Code, for the fiscal year for which an appropriation is made.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any changes to funding levels for charter schools made by the act adding this section shall apply to the entire 2001–02 fiscal year regardless of when this act takes effect.

SEC. 7. Section 1.5 of this bill incorporates amendments to Section 47605 of the Education Code proposed by both this bill and SB 675. It shall only become operative if (1) both bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2002, (2) each bill amends Section 47605 of the Education Code, and (3) this bill is enacted after SB 675, in which case Section 1 of this bill shall not become operative.

SEC. 8. Section 2.5 of this bill incorporates amendments to Section 47612.5 of the Education Code proposed by this bill and SB 955. It shall only become operative if (1) both bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2002, (2) each bill amends Section 47612.5 of the Education Code, and (3) this bill is enacted after SB 955, in which case Section 47612.5 of the Education Code, as amended by SB 955, shall remain operative only until the operative date of this bill, at which time Section 2.5 of this bill shall become operative, and Section 2 of this bill shall not become operative.

