AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 4, 2012 AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 31, 2011

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1172

Introduced by Assembly Member Mendoza Members Mendoza and Bonilla

February 18, 2011

An act to amend Sections 47604.5, 47605, 47605.5, 47607, 47613, 47641, and 47651 of, to add Section 47609 to, and to repeal Sections 47605.6, 47605.8, and 47607.5 of Section 47605 of, and to add Section 47609 to, the Education Code, relating to charter schools.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1172, as amended, Mendoza. Charter schools: petition for establishment: decision to grant or deny: appeal. deny.

Existing law requires that within 60 days of receipt of a petition for the establishment of a charter school, a the governing board of a school district—shall, within 60 days of the receipt of a petition for the establishment of a charter school, to either grant or deny the charter, as specified. Existing law—provides that prohibits the governing board of a school district—shall not deny from denying a petition unless—it the governing board makes written factual findings in support of one or more specified findings.

This bill would include the finding that the charter school would have a negative fiscal impact on the school district, as specified, among those findings upon which a school district may base denial of a petition for the establishment of a charter school. AB 1172 -2-

Existing law provides that if the governing board of a school district denies a petition for the establishment of a charter school, the petitioner may elect to submit the petition to the county board of education which may grant or deny the petition.

This bill would instead provide that a petitioner may appeal the denial of a petition for the establishment of a charter school by the governing board of a school district to the county board of education, which may consider the appeal only if the appeal alleges that the school district governing board committed a procedural violation in reviewing the petition. The bill would provide that if a county board of education finds, by substantial evidence, that the school district governing board committed a procedural violation in reviewing the petition, the county board of education shall remand the petition to the school district.

Existing law provides that a petition to establish a charter school may be submitted directly to a county board of education for charter schools that will serve pupils for whom the county office of education would otherwise be responsible for providing direct education and related services.

This bill would provide that a petitioner may appeal the denial of a petition for the establishment of a charter school by the county board of education to the State Board of Education, which may consider the appeal only if the appeal alleges that the county board of education committed a procedural violation in reviewing the petition. The bill would provide that if the state board finds, by substantial evidence, that the county board of education committed a procedural violation in reviewing the petition, the state board shall remand the petition to the county board of education.

Existing law provides that a county board of education may approve a petition for the operation of a charter school that operates at one or more sites within the geographic boundaries of the county and that provides instructional services that are not generally provided by a county office of education. Existing law also provides that a petition for the operation of a state charter school may be submitted directly to the state board, and the state board shall have the authority to approve a charter for the operation of a state charter school that may operate at multiple sites throughout the state. Existing law also authorizes the state board to adopt regulations for the implementation of this provision.

This bill would repeal those provisions.

Existing law requires the Legislative Analyst, by July 1, 2003, to report to the Legislature on the effectiveness of the charter school

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approach and recommend whether to expand or reduce the annual rate of growth of charter schools. Existing law requires the Legislative Analyst's Office to convene triennially a work group to review, commencing with appropriations proposed for the 2008–09 fiscal year, the appropriateness of the funding level provided by the categorical block grant for charter schools.

This bill would require the Legislative Analyst, on or before July 1, 2016, to submit a report to the Legislature on the best practices and lessons learned from charter school innovation and distribute it to all local educational agencies, to the appropriate education policy committees of the Legislature, and to the Governor.

This bill would make other conforming changes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: <u>yes-no</u>. State-mandated local program: no.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 47605 of the Education Code is amended 2 to read:

47605. (a) (1) Except as set forth in paragraph (2), a petition for the establishment of a charter school within a school district may be circulated by one or more persons seeking to establish the charter school. A petition for the establishment of a charter school shall identify a single charter school that will operate within the geographic boundaries of that school district. A charter school may propose to operate at multiple sites within the school district, as long as each location is identified in the charter school petition. 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 legal 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) A petition that proposes to convert an existing public school to a charter school that would not be eligible for a loan pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 41365 may be circulated by one or

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more persons seeking to establish the 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 legal 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.
- (4) After receiving approval of its petition, a charter school that proposes to establish operations at one or more additional sites shall request a material revision to its charter and shall notify the authority that granted its charter of those additional locations. The authority that granted its charter shall consider whether to approve those additional locations at an open, public meeting. If the additional locations are approved, they shall be a material revision to the charter school's charter.
- (5) A charter school that is unable to locate within the jurisdiction of the chartering school district may establish one site outside the boundaries of the school district, but within the county in which that school district is located, if the school district within the jurisdiction of which the charter school proposes to operate is notified in advance of the charter petition approval, the county superintendent of schools and the Superintendent are notified of the location of the charter school before it commences operations, and either of the following circumstances exist:
- (A) The school has attempted to locate a single site or facility to house the entire program, but a site or facility is unavailable in the area in which the school chooses to locate.
- (B) The site is needed for temporary use during a construction or expansion project.
- (6) Commencing January 1, 2003, a petition to establish a charter school-may shall not be approved to serve pupils in a grade level that is not served by the school district of the governing board considering the petition, unless the petition proposes to serve pupils in all of the grade levels served by that school district.
- (b) No later than 30 days after receiving a petition, in accordance with subdivision (a), the governing board of the school district

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shall hold a public hearing on the provisions of the charter, at 1 2 which time the governing board of the school district shall consider 3 the level of support for the petition by teachers employed by the 4 district, other employees of the district, and parents. Following 5 review of the petition and the public hearing, the governing board 6 of the school district shall either grant or deny the charter within 7 60 days of receipt of the petition, provided, however, that the date 8 may be extended by an additional 30 days if both parties agree to the extension. In reviewing petitions for the establishment of 10 charter schools pursuant to this section, the chartering authority 11 shall be guided by the intent of the Legislature that charter schools 12 are and should become an integral part of the California educational 13 system and that establishment of charter schools should be 14 encouraged. The governing board of the school district shall grant 15 a charter for the operation of a school under this part if it is satisfied 16 that granting the charter is consistent with sound educational 17 practice. The governing board of the school district shall not deny 18 a petition for the establishment of a charter school unless it makes 19 written factual findings, specific to the particular petition, setting 20 forth specific facts to support one or more of the following 21 findings: 22

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

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- (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) (i) 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.
- (ii) If the proposed school will serve high school pupils, a description of the manner in which the charter school will inform parents about the transferability of courses to other public high

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schools and the eligibility of courses to meet college entrance requirements. Courses offered by the charter school that are accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges may be considered transferable and courses approved by the University of California or the California State University as creditable under the "A" to "G" admissions criteria may be considered to meet college entrance requirements.

- (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.

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(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 Chapter 10.7 (commencing with Section 3540) of Division 4 of Title 1 of the Government Code.
- (P) A description of the procedures to be used if the charter school closes. The procedures shall ensure a final audit of the school to determine the disposition of all assets and liabilities of the charter school, including plans for disposing of any net assets and for the maintenance and transfer of pupil records.
- (6) The charter school would have a negative fiscal impact on the school district. For the purpose of this paragraph, the finding that a charter school would have a negative fiscal impact on a school district may only be established, and is deemed to be established, if any of the following conditions are met:
- (A) The school district has received a qualified or negative financial certification pursuant to Section 42131.
- (B) The school district demonstrates fiscal distress through the application of the standards and criteria adopted pursuant to Section 33127 for the development of annual budgets and the management of subsequent expenditures from annual budgets.
- (C) The school district applies for an emergency apportionment or loan, or has received an emergency apportionment or loan and is operating under the oversight of a state administrator or trustee pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with Section 41320) or Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 41325) of Chapter 3 of Part 24 of Division 3.
- (D) The school district, due to the declining enrollment of pupils, is in the process of closing a school that a charter school petition has identified as the proposed site for its charter school.
- (c) (1) Charter schools shall meet all statewide standards and conduct the pupil assessments required pursuant to Sections 60605 and 60851 and any other statewide standards authorized in statute

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or pupil assessments applicable to pupils in noncharter public schools.

- (2) Charter schools shall, on a regular basis, consult with their parents, legal guardians, 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 the characteristics listed in Section 220. 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 legal guardian, within this state, except that an 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.
- (3) If a pupil is expelled or leaves the charter school without graduating or completing the school year for any reason, the charter school shall notify the superintendent of the school district of the pupil's last known address within 30 days, and shall, upon request, provide that school district with a copy of the cumulative record of the pupil, including a transcript of grades or report card, and health information. This paragraph applies only to pupils subject to compulsory full-time education pursuant to Section 48200.

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(e) The governing board of a school district shall not require any employee of the school district to be employed in a charter school.

- (f) The governing board of a school district shall not 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 used 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 description of the facilities to be used by the charter school shall specify where the school intends to locate. The petitioner or petitioners shall also be required to provide financial statements that include a proposed first-year operational budget, including startup costs, and cashflow 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 governing board of the school district 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 department under Section 54032 as it read prior to July 19, 2006.
- (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 applicable county superintendent of schools, the department, and the state board.
- (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 the county board of education. The county board of education 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, and the state board may approve the petition, in accordance with subdivision (b). A charter school that receives approval of its petition from a county board of education or from

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the state board on appeal shall be subject to the same requirements concerning geographic location to which it would otherwise be subject if it received approval from the entity to which it originally submitted its petition. A charter petition that is submitted to either a county board of education or to the state board shall meet all otherwise applicable petition requirements, including the identification of the proposed site or sites where the charter school will operate.

- (2) In assuming its role as a chartering agency, the state board shall develop criteria to be used for the review and approval of charter school petitions presented to the state board. The criteria shall address all elements required for charter approval, as identified in subdivision (b) and shall define "reasonably comprehensive" as used in paragraph (5) of subdivision (b) in a way that is consistent with the intent of this part. Upon satisfactory completion of the criteria, the state board 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 based on an appeal 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 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 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 department and the state board.
- (k) (1) The state board may, by mutual agreement, designate its supervisorial and oversight responsibilities for a charter school approved by the state board to any local educational 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 educational agency shall have all monitoring and supervising authority of a chartering agency, including, but not limited to, powers and duties set forth in Section

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1 47607, except the power of revocation, which shall remain with 2 the state board.

- (3) A charter school that has been granted its charter through an appeal to the state board and elects to seek renewal of its charter shall, prior to before 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 for renewal of its charter.
- (*l*) Teachers in charter schools shall 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 are 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, the Controller, the county superintendent of schools of the county in which the charter school is sited, unless the county board of education of the county in which the charter school is sited is the chartering entity, and the department by December 15 of each year. This subdivision does not apply if the audit of the charter school is encompassed in the audit of the chartering entity pursuant to Section 41020.

SECTION 1. Section 47604.5 of the Education Code is amended to read:

- 47604.5. The state board may, based upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, take appropriate action, including, but not limited to, revocation of the school's charter, when the state board finds any of the following:
- (a) Gross financial mismanagement that jeopardizes the financial stability of the charter school.
- (b) Illegal or substantially improper use of charter school funds for the personal benefit of any officer, director, or fiduciary of the charter school.

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 (e) Substantial and sustained departure from measurably successful practices such that continued departure would jeopardize the educational development of the school's pupils.

SEC. 2. 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 a school district may be circulated by one or more persons seeking to establish the charter school. A petition for the establishment of a charter school shall identify a single charter school that will operate within the geographic boundaries of that school district. A charter school may propose to operate at multiple sites within the school district, as long as each location is identified in the charter school petition. 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 legal 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) A petition that proposes to convert an existing public school to a charter school that would not be eligible for a loan pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 41365 may be circulated by 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 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 legal 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.
- (4) After receiving approval of its petition, a charter school that proposes to establish operations at one or more additional sites shall request a material revision to its charter and shall notify the

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authority that granted its charter of those additional locations. The authority that granted its charter shall consider whether to approve those additional locations at an open, public meeting. If the additional locations are approved, they shall be a material revision to the charter school's charter.

- (5) A charter school that is unable to locate within the jurisdiction of the chartering school district may establish one site outside the boundaries of the school district, but within the county in which that school district is located, if the school district within the jurisdiction of which the charter school proposes to operate is notified in advance of the charter petition approval, the county superintendent of schools and the Superintendent are notified of the location of the charter school before it commences operations, and either of the following circumstances exist:
- (A) The school has attempted to locate a single site or facility to house the entire program, but a site or facility is unavailable in the area in which the school chooses to locate.
- (B) The site is needed for temporary use during a construction or expansion project.
- (6) Commencing January 1, 2003, a petition to establish a charter school may not be approved to serve pupils in a grade level that is not served by the school district of the governing board considering the petition, unless the petition proposes to serve pupils in all of the grade levels served by that school district.
- (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. The governing board of the school district shall grant

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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) (i) 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.
- (ii) If the proposed school will serve high school pupils, a description of the manner in which the charter school will inform parents about the transferability of courses to other public high schools and the eligibility of courses to meet college entrance requirements. Courses offered by the charter school that are accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges may be considered transferable and courses approved by the University of California or the California State University as creditable under the "A" to "G" admissions criteria may be considered to meet college entrance requirements.
- (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.

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(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 Chapter 10.7 (commencing with Section 3540) of Division 4 of Title 1 of the Government Code.
- 39 (P) A description of the procedures to be used if the charter 40 school closes. The procedures shall ensure a final audit of the

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school to determine the disposition of all assets and liabilities of the charter school, including plans for disposing of any net assets and for the maintenance and transfer of pupil records.

- (6) The charter school would have a negative fiscal impact on the school district. For the purpose of this paragraph, the finding that a charter school would have a negative fiscal impact on a school district may only be established, and is deemed to be established, if any of the following conditions are met:
- (A) The school district has received a qualified or negative financial certification pursuant to Section 42131.
- (B) The school district demonstrates fiscal distress through the application of the standards and criteria adopted pursuant to Section 33127 for the development of annual budgets and the management of subsequent expenditures from annual budgets.
- (C) The school district applies for an emergency apportionment or loan, or has received an emergency apportionment or loan and is operating under the oversight of a state administrator or trustee pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with Section 41320) or Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 41325) of Chapter 3 of Part 24.
- (D) The school district, due to the declining enrollment of pupils, is in the process of closing a school that a charter school petition has identified as the proposed site for its charter school.
- (c) (1) Charter schools shall meet all statewide standards and conduct the pupil assessments required pursuant to Sections 60605 and 60851 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, legal guardians, 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 the characteristics listed in Section 220. 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 legal guardian, within this state, except that an existing public school converting partially or entirely to a charter school under this part shall adopt and maintain a policy

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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.
- (3) If a pupil is expelled or leaves the charter school without graduating or completing the school year for any reason, the charter school shall notify the superintendent of the school district of the pupil's last known address within 30 days, and shall, upon request, provide that school district with a copy of the cumulative record of the pupil, including a transcript of grades or report card, and health information. This paragraph applies only to pupils subject to compulsory full-time education pursuant to Section 48200.
- (e) The governing board of a school district shall not require any employee of the school district to be employed in a charter school.
- (f) The governing board of a school district shall not 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 used 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 description of the facilities to be used by the charter school shall specify where the school intends to locate. The petitioner or petitioners shall also be required to provide financial statements that include a proposed first-year operational

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budget, including startup costs, and cashflow 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 governing board of the school district shall give preference to petitions that demonstrate the eapability to provide comprehensive learning experiences to pupils identified by the petitioner or petitioners as academically low achieving pursuant to the standards established by the department under Section 54032 as it read prior to July 19, 2006.
- (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 county superintendent of schools, the department, and the state board.
- (j) (1) If the governing board of a school district denies a petition, the petitioner may appeal that denial to the county board of education. The county board of education may consider an appeal pursuant to this subdivision only if the appeal alleges that the governing board of the school district committed a procedural violation under this part in reviewing the petition. If the county board of education finds, by substantial evidence, that the governing board of the school district committed a procedural violation under this part in reviewing the petition, the county board shall remand the petition to the school district.
- (2) If the county board of education fails to act on an appeal 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.
- (k) Teachers in charter schools shall 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 are 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.
- (1) 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, the Controller, the county superintendent

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of schools of the county in which the charter school is sited, and the department by December 15 of each year. This subdivision does not apply if the audit of the charter school is encompassed in the audit of the chartering entity pursuant to Section 41020.

SEC. 3. Section 47605.5 of the Education Code is amended to read:

47605.5. (a) A petition may be submitted directly to a county board of education in the same manner as set forth in Section 47605 for charter schools that will serve pupils for whom the county office of education would otherwise be responsible for providing direct education and related services. A charter school for which a charter is granted by the county board of education shall qualify fully as a charter school for all funding and other purposes of this part.

- (b) 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 department and the state board.
- (e) If the county board of education denies the petition, the petitioner may appeal that denial to the state board. The state board may consider an appeal pursuant to this section only if the appeal alleges that the county board of education committed a procedural violation under this part in reviewing the petition. If the state board finds, by substantial evidence, that the county board of education committed a procedural violation under this part in reviewing the petition, the state board shall remand the petition to the county board of education. If the state board fails to act on an appeal within 120 days of receipt, the decision of the county board to deny a petition shall, thereafter, be subject to judicial review.
 - SEC. 4. Section 47605.6 of the Education Code is repealed.
 - SEC. 5. Section 47605.8 of the Education Code is repealed.
- SEC. 6. Section 47607 of the Education Code is amended to read:

47607. (a) (1) A charter may be granted pursuant to Sections 47605, 47605.5, and 47606 for a period not to exceed five years. Except as provided in paragraph (1) of subdivision (k) of Section 47605, as it read on January 1, 2011, with regard to a charter granted by the state board prior to January 1, 2012, the authority that granted the charter shall oversee the charter until the charter is up for renewal. Each renewal shall be for a period of five years.

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A material revision of the provisions of a charter petition may be made only with the approval of the authority that granted the charter. The authority that granted the charter may inspect or observe any part of the charter school at any time.

- (A) A charter granted by a school district governing board or a county board of education may be granted one or more subsequent renewals by that entity.
- (B) A charter granted by a county board of education prior to January 1, 2012, for any charter school other than one that serves pupils for whom the county office of education would otherwise be responsible for providing direct education and related services may be granted one or more subsequent renewals by the governing board of the school district in which the school is located.
- (C) A charter granted by the state board prior to January 1, 2012, may be granted one or more subsequent renewals by the governing board of the school district in which the school is located.
- (2) Renewals and material revisions of charters are governed by the standards and criteria in Section 47605, and shall include, but not be limited to, a reasonably comprehensive description of any new requirement of charter schools enacted into law after the charter was originally granted or last renewed.
- (b) Commencing on January 1, 2005, or after a charter school has been in operation for four years, whichever date occurs later, a charter school shall meet at least one of the following criteria prior to receiving a charter renewal pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a):
- (1) Attained its Academic Performance Index (API) growth target in the prior year or in two of the last three years, or in the aggregate for the prior three years.
- (2) Ranked in deciles 4 to 10, inclusive, on the API in the prior year or in two of the last three years.
- (3) Ranked in deciles 4 to 10, inclusive, on the API for a demographically comparable school in the prior year or in two of the last three years.
- (4) (A) The entity that granted the charter determines that the academic performance of the charter school is at least equal to the academic performance of the public schools that the charter school pupils would otherwise have been required to attend, as well as the academic performance of the schools in the school district in which the charter school is located, taking into account the

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composition of the pupil population that is served at the charter school.

- (B) The determination made pursuant to this paragraph shall be based upon all of the following:
 - (i) Documented and clear and convincing data.

- (ii) Pupil achievement data from assessments, including, but not limited to, the Standardized Testing and Reporting Program established by Article 4 (commencing with Section 60640) of Chapter 5 of Part 33 for demographically similar pupil populations in the comparison schools.
 - (iii) Information submitted by the charter school.
- (C) A chartering authority shall submit to the Superintendent copies of supporting documentation and a written summary of the basis for any determination made pursuant to this paragraph. The Superintendent shall review the materials and make recommendations to the chartering authority based on that review. The review may be the basis for a recommendation made pursuant to Section 47604.5.
- (D) A charter renewal may not be granted to a charter school prior to 30 days after that charter school submits materials pursuant to this paragraph.
- (5) Has qualified for an alternative accountability system pursuant to subdivision (h) of Section 52052.
- (c) A charter may be revoked by the authority that granted the charter under this chapter if the authority finds, through a showing of substantial evidence, that the charter school did any of the following:
- (1) Committed a material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in the charter.
- (2) Failed to meet or pursue any of the pupil outcomes identified in the charter.
- (3) Failed to meet generally accepted accounting principles, or engaged in fiscal mismanagement.
 - (4) Violated any provision of law.
- (d) Prior to revocation, the authority that granted the charter shall notify the charter public school of any violation of this section and give the school a reasonable opportunity to remedy the violation, unless the authority determines, in writing, that the violation constitutes a severe and imminent threat to the health or safety of the pupils.

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(e) Prior to revoking a charter for failure to remedy a violation pursuant to subdivision (d), and after expiration of the school's reasonable opportunity to remedy without successfully remedying the violation, the chartering authority shall provide a written notice of intent to revoke and notice of facts in support of revocation to the charter school. No later than 30 days after providing the notice of intent to revoke a charter, the chartering authority shall hold a public hearing, in the normal course of business, on the issue of whether evidence exists to revoke the charter. No later than 30 days after the public hearing, the chartering authority shall issue a final decision to revoke or decline to revoke the charter, unless the chartering authority and the charter school agree to extend the issuance of the decision by an additional 30 days. The chartering authority shall not revoke a charter, unless it makes written factual findings supported by substantial evidence, specific to the charter school, that support its findings.

- (f) (1) If a school district is the chartering authority and it revokes a charter pursuant to this section, the charter school may appeal the revocation to the county board of education within 30 days following the final decision of the chartering authority.
- (2) The county board may reverse the revocation decision and remand the request for renewal to the school district governing board if the county board determines that the findings made by the chartering authority under subdivision (e) are not supported by substantial evidence.
- (g) (1) If a county office of education is the chartering authority and the county board revokes a charter pursuant to this section, the charter school may appeal the revocation to the state board within 30 days following the decision of the chartering authority.
- (2) The state board may reverse the revocation decision and remand the request for renewal to the county board of education if the state board determines that the findings made by the chartering authority under subdivision (e) are not supported by substantial evidence.
- (h) If the revocation decision of the chartering authority is reversed on appeal and the request for renewal is remanded to the school district governing board or the county board of education, that entity shall continue to be regarded as the chartering authority.
- (i) During the pendency of an appeal filed under this section, a charter school, whose revocation proceedings are based on

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paragraph (1) or (2) of subdivision (e), shall continue to qualify as a charter school for funding and for all other purposes of this part, and may continue to hold all existing grants, resources, and facilities, in order to ensure that the education of pupils enrolled in the school is not disrupted.

- (j) Immediately following the decision of a county board to reverse a decision of a school district to revoke a charter and to remand the request for renewal to the school district governing board, the following shall apply:
- (1) The charter school shall qualify as a charter school for funding and for all other purposes of this part.
- (2) The charter school may continue to hold all existing grants, resources, and facilities.
- (3) Any funding, grants, resources, and facilities that had been withheld from the charter school, or that the charter school had otherwise been deprived of use, as a result of the revocation of the charter shall be immediately reinstated or returned.
- (k) A final decision of a revocation or appeal of a revocation pursuant to subdivision (c) shall be reported to the chartering authority, the county board, and the department.
 - SEC. 7. Section 47607.5 of the Education Code is repealed. SEC. 8.
- SEC. 2. Section 47609 is added to the Education Code, to read: 47609. On or before July 1, 2016, the Legislative Analyst shall submit a report to the Legislature on the best practices and lessons learned from charter school innovation and distribute it to all local educational agencies, to the appropriate education policy committees of the Legislature, and to the Governor.
- SEC. 9. Section 47613 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 47613. (a) Except as set forth in subdivision (b), a chartering authority may charge for the actual costs of supervisorial oversight of a charter school not to exceed 1 percent of the revenue of the charter school.
- (b) A chartering authority may charge for the actual costs of supervisorial oversight of a charter school not to exceed 3 percent of the revenue of the charter school if the charter school is able to obtain substantially rent free facilities from the chartering authority.
- (c) A local agency that is given the responsibility for supervisorial oversight of a charter school, pursuant to paragraph

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(1) of subdivision (k) of Section 47605, as it read on January 1,
2011, may charge for the actual costs of supervisorial oversight,
and administrative costs necessary to secure charter school funding.
A charter school that is charged for costs under this subdivision
may not be charged pursuant to subdivision (a) or (b).

- (d) This section does not prevent the charter school from separately purchasing administrative or other services from the chartering authority or any other source.
- (e) For purposes of this section, a chartering authority means a school district or county board of education that granted the charter to the charter school.
- (f) For purposes of this section, "revenue of the charter school" means the general purpose entitlement and categorical block grant, as defined in subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section 47632.
- (g) (1) The California Research Bureau of the California State Library shall prepare and submit to the Legislature on or before January 8, 2009, a report on the key elements and actual costs of charter school oversight. For purposes of the report, the bureau shall define fiscal and academic oversight and shall include any financial relationship between a charter school and its chartering authority that has the effect of furthering the operations of the charter school and that may provide opportunities to oversee the charter school. The report, at a minimum, shall address all of the following issues:
- (A) The range of annual activities that entities providing supervisorial oversight of charter schools are expected to perform.
- (B) Staff time spent on reviewing charter petitions measured by the size of school districts and the number of charter petitions reviewed.
- (C) Staff time spent on oversight responsibilities measured by the size of school districts and the number of charter schools.
- (D) Best practices for charter school oversight measured by efficiency and effectiveness. A cost analysis of those best practices after being measured by efficiency and effectiveness.
- (E) Comparison of school district costs and revenues attributable to charter school oversight.
- (F) Administrative services provided to a charter school by a chartering authority, such as human resources, that may be useful in the oversight of the charter school and chartering authority revenues attributable to those services.

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(G) Length of time required to review a single charter petition.

(H) Recommendations for structuring charter school oversight and accountability in California, including an assessment of whether or not the associated costs specified in subdivisions (a) and (b) and subparagraph (F) are adequate to support appropriate supervisorial oversight.

- (2) In preparing its report, the California Research Bureau shall consult with an advisory panel to ensure technical accuracy.
- SEC. 10. Section 47641 of the Education Code is amended to read:
- 47641. (a) A charter school that includes in its petition for establishment or renewal, or that otherwise provides, verifiable, written assurances that the charter school will participate as a local educational agency in a special education plan approved by the state board shall be deemed a local educational agency for the purposes of compliance with federal law (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1400 et seq.) and for eligibility for federal and state special education funds. A charter school that is deemed a local educational agency for the purposes of special education pursuant to this article shall be permitted to participate in an approved special education local plan that is consistent with subdivision (a), (b), or (c) of Section 56195.1.
- (b) A charter school that was granted a charter by a local educational agency that does not comply with subdivision (a) may not be deemed a local educational agency pursuant to this article, but shall be deemed a public school of the local educational agency that granted the charter.
- (c) A charter school that has been granted a charter by the state board, and for which the board has delegated its supervisorial and oversight responsibilities pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (k) of Section 47605, as it read on January 1, 2011, and does not comply with subdivision (a), shall be deemed a public school of the local educational agency to which the board has delegated its supervisorial and oversight responsibilities.
- (d) A charter school that has been granted a charter by the state board, and for which the board has not delegated its supervisorial and oversight responsibilities pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (k) of Section 47605, as it read on January 1, 2011, may not be deemed a local educational agency unless the charter school complies with subdivision (a).

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SEC. 11. Section 47651 of the Education Code is amended to read:

- 47651. (a) A charter school may receive the state aid portion of the charter school's total general-purpose entitlement and categorical block grant directly or through the local educational agency that either grants its charter or was designated by the state board.
- (1) In the case of a charter school that elects to receive its funding directly, the warrant shall be drawn in favor of the superintendent of schools of the county in which the local educational agency that approved the charter or was designated by the state board as the oversight agency pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (k) of Section 47605, as it read on January 1, 2011, is located, for deposit to the appropriate funds or accounts of the charter school in the county treasury. The county superintendent of schools is authorized to establish appropriate funds or accounts in the county treasury for each charter school.
- (2) In the case of a charter school that does not elect to receive its funding directly pursuant to this section, the warrant shall be drawn in favor of the superintendent of schools of the county in which the local educational agency that granted the charter is located or was designated the oversight agency by the board pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (k) of Section 47605, as it read on January 1, 2011, for deposit to the appropriate funds or accounts of the local educational agency.
- (3) In the case of a charter school, the charter of which was granted by the state board prior to January 1, 2012, but for which the board has not delegated oversight responsibilities pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (k) of Section 47605, as it read on January 1, 2011, the warrant shall be drawn in favor of the superintendent of schools in the county where the local educational agency is located that initially denied the charter that was later approved by the board. The county superintendent of schools is authorized to establish appropriate funds or accounts in the county treasury for each charter school.
- (b) On or before June 1 of each year, a charter school electing to receive its funding directly shall so notify the county superintendent of schools of the county in which the local educational agency that granted the charter is located or, in the ease of charters for which the state board has designated an

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oversight agency pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (k) of 2 Section 47605, as read on January 1, 2011, the county 3 superintendent of schools of the county in which the designated 4 oversight agency is located. An election to receive funding directly 5 shall apply to all funding that the charter school is eligible to 6 receive including, but not limited to, the charter general-purpose 7 entitlements and the categorical block grant computed pursuant to 8 Section 47633, other state and federal categorical aid, and lottery 9 funds.