

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0062

Charter school law-amendments.

Sponsored by: Joint Education Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to charter schools; authorizing a phased
2 application process prescribed by state board rule and
3 regulation; allowing mediation of application disputes; and
4 providing for an effective date.

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6 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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8 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-3-307 by creating a new subsection
9 (b) and 21-3-308(a) are amended to read:

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11 **21-3-307. Charter application; contents; phased-in**
12 **application process.**

13

14 (b) The state board may through rule and regulation
15 establish a phased application process whereby charter
16 school application components specified under subsection
17 (a) of this section are subject to prescribed timelines and

1 benchmarks established for the applicant, together with
2 timelines and benchmarks imposed upon the school district
3 for review and action required under W.S. 21-3-308 on
4 submitted application components. The phased application
5 process prescribed by state board rule and regulation may
6 provide a process for mediation of disputes between the
7 applicant and school district, which would be subject to
8 W.S. 1-43-101 through 1-43-104, would allow either party to
9 initiate mediation and would impose costs of mediation
10 equally upon both parties. Any mediation process
11 prescribed by rule shall specify professional requirements
12 for the impartial third party facilitating mediation and
13 shall provide available courses of action upon refusal of
14 any party to participate in mediation.

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16 **21-3-308. Hearing by local board; prohibited actions**
17 **by local board; criteria; compliance with state standards;**
18 **state board review; contractual authority.**

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20 (a) Except as may be prescribed under a phased
21 application process pursuant to W.S. 21-13-307(b), not
22 later than thirty (30) days after receiving an application
23 for any charter school as defined in W.S. 21-3-302, the
24 district board shall hold a public hearing on the

1 application, at which time the board shall consider the
2 level of community and parental support for the application
3 if an application for a new charter school, or the level of
4 teacher and parental support if an application for a
5 converted charter school or charter school within a school.
6 Except as may be prescribed in a phased application process
7 under W.S. 21-3-307(b), following review of the application
8 and the public hearing, if applicable, and in accordance
9 with subsection (d) of this section, the district board
10 shall either approve or deny the application within sixty
11 (60) days of receipt. Approval under this article may be
12 conditioned for purposes specified under subsection (c) of
13 this section. In addition, the board may approve an
14 application for the operation of a converted charter school
15 only if it determines teacher and parental support for the
16 conversion are established at the levels required by W.S.
17 21-3-306(b). Prior to approving an application for a
18 charter school under this section, the board shall approve
19 and adopt the content and terms of the contract as provided
20 in W.S. 21-3-307.

21

22 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2009.

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(END)