

**FISCAL NOTE**

The fiscal impact, in the form of an expenditure increase from the SCHOOL FOUNDATION FUND, is indeterminable due to the unknown: (i) number of charter schools that may be eligible; (ii) school district space that may be deemed available and adequate; and (iii) costs of any approved leases.

This bill, effective immediately, repeals the requirement that a charter school has been approved and successfully operated for a period of not less than three (3) years before it becomes eligible for lease payments by the State Construction Department (Department). Additionally, the bill requires that if the Department deems space available and adequate within a school district that the school district shall make that space available to a charter school operating within the school district if the designation is included within a school district's facility plan.

In school year 2023-2024 (fiscal year 2024), two (2) new charter schools began operating after being approved to operate by the State Loan and Investment Board (SLIB). One (1) additional new charter school previously approved to operate by the SLIB was approved to open in school year 2024-2025 (fiscal year 2025) by the Wyoming Charter School Authorizing Board. Additionally, pursuant to 2023 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 179, Section 4, one (1) additional charter school may be approved by an entity other than a school district board of trustees between July 1, 2026, and July 1, 2028. In addition, school districts have approved five (5) charter school that are currently in operation, with three (3) of those school district-approved charter schools located in leased spaces and receiving lease payments from the Department.

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