

FISCAL NOTE

The fiscal impact, in the form of expenditure increases, is indeterminable, but could be significant.

This bill removes the limit on the number of newly authorized charter schools that can be approved by the Wyoming Charter School Authorizing Board. Pursuant to 2023 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 179, Section 4 and 2024 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 118, Section 332, the Wyoming Charter School Authorizing Board can authorize up to four charter schools through June 30, 2028. The three charter schools previously authorized by the State Loan and Investment Board and the one charter school authorized by the Wyoming Charter School Authorizing Board in November 2024, count towards the total.

The Wyoming Department of Education indicates this bill may require the Legislature to appropriate additional funds from the Public School Foundation Program Account (SFP) for fiscal years 2026, 2027, and 2028, to account for an incalculable but potentially significant expenditure increase in school district Foundation Program funding, as defined in W.S. 21-13-101(a)(v), and K-12 major maintenance or school building and facility lease payments through the State Construction Department. The increased school district Foundation Program funding would come in the form of school district reimbursements, school district entitlement expenditure increases and/or school district recapture revenue decreases to the SFP, depending on the school districts newly authorized charter schools operate in, the number of students enrolled in the authorized charter schools, and the timing of when new charter schools are authorized.

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(Information provided by Trent Carroll, Department of Education, 777-7720)