

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO.

K-12 public charter school amendments.

Sponsored by: Joint Education Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to review of charter school applications by
2 the state superintendent; requiring the state
3 superintendent review applications for a new charter
4 school; specifying requirements and timelines for the state
5 superintendent's review; making conforming amendments;
6 repealing a provision of law; and providing for an
7 effective date.

8

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

10

11 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-3-302.1(a)(i), 21-3-306(a),
12 21-3-307(b) and 21-3-308(a) are amended to read:

13

1 **21-3-302.1. Charter school authorizers; powers and**
2 **duties.**

3
4 (a) Authorizers shall:

5
6 (i) Review charter school applications made to
7 the authorizer and make a written determination on the
8 approval of the application;

9
10 **21-3-306. Application for establishing charter**
11 **schools; conversion of existing schools.**

12
13 (a) Any person may apply to an authorizer for the
14 establishment of a new charter school. Simultaneously with
15 submission of an application to an authorizer for a new
16 charter school, the applicant shall also submit the
17 application to the state superintendent to make a
18 determination pursuant to W.S. 21-3-307(b). The applicant
19 shall have the right to determine which authorizer to apply
20 to and may apply to a different authorizer for renewal of a
21 charter. The Wyoming charter school authorizing board may
22 reject a renewal application from an existing charter
23 school if the renewal is to avoid necessary corrective

1 measures, including closure of the charter school,
2 identified by the authorizer.

3

4 **21-3-307. Charter application; contents; phased-in**
5 **application process.**

6

7 (b) Upon submission of an application under W.S.
8 ~~21-3-307(a)~~ 21-3-306(a), the ~~authorizer~~ state
9 superintendent shall notify the applicant and the
10 authorizer within thirty (30) days of submission whether
11 the application is complete or incomplete, including
12 whether charter school requirements identified in this
13 article are omitted or lack sufficient detail for
14 consideration by the authorizer. If the ~~authorizer~~ state
15 superintendent determines ~~that~~ the application is
16 incomplete, the ~~authorizer~~ state superintendent shall
17 advise the applicant and the authorizer of the reasons for
18 the determination in sufficient detail for the applicant to
19 make changes, if necessary, for resubmission of the
20 application to the authorizer pursuant to W.S. 21-3-306(a).
21 In no event shall the state superintendent have authority
22 pursuant to this subsection to deny or withhold an
23 application from consideration by an authorizer.

1

2 *****

3 *****

4 STAFF COMMENT

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6 Current law requires the authorizer to make an initial
7 determination regarding completeness of an application
8 within 30 days of submission to the authorizer. See page 3,
9 lines 10-11. At the May 28-29 Committee meeting, a number
10 of different timelines were discussed for the State
11 Superintendent to determine completeness. This is a policy
12 choice for the Legislature.

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17 21-3-308. Hearing by authorizer; prohibited actions
18 by authorizer; criteria; compliance with state standards;
19 contractual authority.

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21 (a) Not later than sixty (60) days after receiving ~~an~~
22 ~~application for any charter school which has been~~
23 ~~determined to be complete~~ the state superintendent's
24 determination pursuant to W.S. 21-3-307(b), the authorizer
25 shall hold a public hearing on the application, at which
26 time the authorizer shall consider the level of community
27 and parental support for the application if an application
28 for a new charter school, or the level of teacher and
29 parental support if an application for a converted charter
30 school or charter school within a school. The application

1 review process shall also include an in-person interview of
2 the applicant or applicant group. Following review of the
3 application and the public hearing, if applicable, and in
4 accordance with subsection (d) of this section, the
5 authorizer shall either approve or deny the application
6 ~~within~~not later than ninety (90) days ~~of~~after receipt of
7 the state superintendent's determination pursuant to W.S.
8 21-3-307(b). In addition, the authorizer may approve an
9 application for the operation of a converted charter school
10 only if it determines teacher and parental support for the
11 conversion are established at the levels required by W.S.
12 21-3-306(b). Prior to approving an application for a
13 charter school under this section, the authorizer shall
14 approve and adopt the content and terms of the charter as
15 provided in W.S. 21-3-307.

16

17 **Section 2.** W.S. 21-3-307(e) is repealed.

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19 *****
20 *****

21 STAFF COMMENT

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23 For informational purposes, W.S. 21-3-307(e) reads as
24 follows:

25

26 (e) The Wyoming charter school authorizing board
27 shall submit all applications received under this section

1 to the department of education for review of compliance
2 with the accreditation requirements. The department of
3 education shall submit a report of this review to the
4 Wyoming charter school authorizing board.

5
6 This is duplicative and arguably inconsistent with the 21-
7 3-307(b), as amended by section 1 of this act, which
8 requires the State Superintendent perform a review of the
9 entire application and accreditation would be one element
10 of the review.

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12 *****
13 *****
14

15 **Section 3.** This act shall apply to new charter school
16 applications submitted on or after July 1, 2026.

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18 **Section 4.** This act is effective July 1, 2026.

19
20 (END)