

HB 311 -- Charter Schools

Sponsor: Yates

This bill changes the laws regarding charter schools. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Allows charter schools to be operated in St. Louis County;
- (2) Adds the mayor of St. Louis City and any public or private four-year college or university in Missouri with an approved accredited teacher education program to the list of eligible sponsors;
- (3) Allows institutions whose primary campus is located in Missouri to be affiliated institutions;
- (4) Requires sponsors to:
 - (a) Expend no less than 90% of its sponsorship funds in support of the school or as a direct investment in the school;
 - (b) Maintain a comprehensive application process that follows fair procedures and rigorous criteria for schools applying for sponsorship;
 - (c) Negotiate contracts with schools that clearly articulate the rights and responsibilities of each party; and
 - (d) Conduct contract oversight that includes performance evaluation, compliance monitoring, informed decisions, and assurance of autonomy;
- (5) Removes the "sole-purpose" requirement and allows a charter school to declare itself a local educational agency;
- (6) Allows charter schools to maintain a \$500,000 or more insurance policy issued by a Missouri company on its employees against theft instead of a surety bond based on the school's cash flow; and
- (7) Allows nonresident students from the same or adjoining counties who submit a timely application to enroll in a charter school whose mission is dropout prevention or recovery if resident pupils are given preference when there is insufficient capacity available.