

1 SB331
2 166455-1
3 By Senators Sanford, Marsh, Reed, Shelnutt and Holtzclaw
4 RFD: Education and Youth Affairs
5 First Read: 02-APR-15

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under the Alabama School Choice and Student
9 Opportunity Act adopted during the 2015 Regular
10 Session, charter schools are authorized in this
11 state.

12 This bill would establish a pilot program
13 for the operation of internal public charter
14 schools to end with the 2020-2021 school year,
15 unless extended by the Legislature.

16 This bill would require internal public
17 charter schools to annually report to the State
18 Department of Education regarding student
19 achievement, student growth by newly enrolled
20 students and continuing students, and any other
21 information as determined necessary by the
22 department.

23 This bill would also require the Alabama
24 Public Charter School Commission to issue an annual
25 report on the progress of the internal public
26 charter school pilot program to the Legislature and
27 the Governor.

1
2 A BILL
3 TO BE ENTITLED
4 AN ACT
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6 Relating to education; to establish a pilot program
7 for the operation of internal public charter schools; to
8 provide for the extension of the program by the Legislature;
9 to require internal public charter schools to report annually
10 to the State Department of Education; to require the Alabama
11 Public Charter School Commission to annually report to the
12 Legislature and the Governor; and to provide rulemaking
13 authority.

14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

15 Section 1. (a) For the purposes of this section, the
16 following terms shall have the following meanings:

17 (1) AUTHORIZER. An entity authorized under Act
18 2015-3, 2015 Regular Session to review applications, approve
19 or reject applications, enter into charter contracts with
20 applicants, oversee public charter schools, and decide whether
21 to renew, not renew, or revoke charter contracts.

22 (2) CHARTER CONTRACT. A fixed-term renewable
23 contract between a public charter school and an authorizer
24 that outlines the roles, powers, responsibilities, and
25 quantitative and qualitative performance expectations for each
26 party to the contract.

1 (3) COMMISSION. The Alabama Public Charter School
2 Commission.

3 (4) INTERNAL PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL. A public school
4 selected by the local school board to operate as a public
5 charter school within the local school system.

6 (5) LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD. A city or county board of
7 education exercising management and control of a city or
8 county local school system pursuant to state law.

9 (b) Commencing with the 2016-2017 school year, each
10 local school board in the state may select a school within the
11 jurisdiction of the local school system to operate as an
12 internal public charter school pursuant to a pilot program.
13 The pilot program shall continue for a period of five school
14 years and shall end with the 2020-2021 school year, unless
15 extended by legislative action.

16 (c) An internal public charter school participating
17 in the pilot program shall have the same flexibility, and
18 operate under the same rules, as a public charter school
19 established pursuant to Act 2015-3, 2015 Regular Session,
20 except that an internal public charter school is not required
21 to enter into a charter contract with an authorizer. The local
22 school board shall be responsible for the day to day oversight
23 of the internal public charter school.

24 (d) Each internal public charter school, through the
25 local school board, shall annually report to the State
26 Department of Education regarding student achievement, student
27 growth by newly enrolled students and continuing students, and

1 any other information as determined necessary by the
2 department. The department shall compile a comprehensive
3 report for all internal public charter schools operating in
4 the state and shall annually submit the comprehensive report
5 to the commission before December 15 each year.

6 (e) The commission shall issue an annual report on
7 the progress of the internal public charter school pilot
8 program to the Legislature and the Governor on or before the
9 tenth legislative day of the regular session.

10 Section 2. This act shall become effective
11 immediately following its passage and approval by the
12 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.