

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Charter school law-amendments.

Sponsored by: HDRAFT

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to charter schools; authorizing a phased
2 application process prescribed by state board rule and
3 regulation; allowing mediation of application disputes; and
4 providing for an effective date.

5

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

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8 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-3-307 by creating a new subsection
9 (b) and W.S. 21-3-308(a) are amended to read:

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11 **21-3-307. Charter application; contents; phased-in**
12 **application process.**

13

1 (b) The state board may through rule and regulation
2 establish a phased application process whereby charter
3 school application components specified under subsection
4 (a) of this section are subject to prescribed timelines and
5 benchmarks established for the applicant, together with
6 timelines and benchmarks imposed upon the school district
7 for review and action required under W.S. 21-3-308 on
8 submitted application components. The phased application
9 process prescribed by state board rule and regulation may
10 provide a process for mediation of disputes between the
11 applicant and school district, which would be subject to
12 W.S. 1-43-101 through 1-43-104, would allow either party to
13 initiate mediation and would impose costs of mediation
14 equally upon both parties. Any mediation process
15 prescribed by rule shall specify professional requirements
16 for the impartial third party facilitating mediation and
17 shall provide available courses of action upon refusal of
18 any party to participate in mediation.

19
20 **21-3-308. Hearing by local board; prohibited actions**
21 **by local board; criteria; compliance with state standards;**
22 **state board review; contractual authority.**

23

1 (a) Except as may be prescribed under a phased
2 application process pursuant to W.S. 21-13-307(b), not
3 later than thirty (30) days after receiving an application
4 for any charter school as defined in W.S. 21-3-302, the
5 district board shall hold a public hearing on the
6 application, at which time the board shall consider the
7 level of community and parental support for the application
8 if an application for a new charter school, or the level of
9 teacher and parental support if an application for a
10 converted charter school or charter school within a school.
11 Except as may be prescribed in a phased application process
12 under W.S. 21-3-307(b), following review of the application
13 and the public hearing, if applicable, and in accordance
14 with subsection (d) of this section, the district board
15 shall either approve or deny the application within sixty
16 (60) days of receipt. Approval under this article may be
17 conditioned for purposes specified under subsection (c) of
18 this section. In addition, the board may approve an
19 application for the operation of a converted charter school
20 only if it determines teacher and parental support for the
21 conversion are established at the levels required by W.S.
22 21-3-306(b). Prior to approving an application for a
23 charter school under this section, the board shall approve

1 and adopt the content and terms of the contract as provided
2 in W.S. 21-3-307.

3

4 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2009.

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(END)