

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2021 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2012

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WAMSLEY AND ESPINOSA

[Introduced February 10, 2021; Referred to the
Committee on Education]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §18-5G-1, §18-5G-2, §18-5G-4, §18-5G-5, §18-5G-6, §18-5G-9,
 2 §18-5G-10, and §18-5G-11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to
 3 amend said code by adding thereto three new sections, designated §18-5G-13, §18-5G-
 4 14, and §18-5G-15, all relating to public charter schools; providing for a liberal
 5 interpretation; prohibiting the conversion of private schools; prohibiting any sort of profit or
 6 monetary consideration by elected officials in relation to charter schools; limiting the
 7 authorization of public charter school; creating a process by which to appeal the
 8 authorizer's decision to the West Virginia Board of Education; creating virtual public
 9 charter schools in West Virginia; establishing the West Virginia Professional Charter
 10 School Board; providing for members, appointments, and meetings; and making technical
 11 improvements and corrections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 5G. PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS.

§18-5G-1. Legislative purpose and intent; liberal interpretation; prohibiting conversion of private schools; prohibiting profit or monetary consideration by elected officials; limiting authorization of public charter schools.

1 (a) The purpose of this article is to establish a process for the creation, governance and
 2 oversight accountability of public charter schools with a renewed ~~the~~ commitment to the mission,
 3 goals, and diversity of public education that benefits students, parents, teachers, and community
 4 members.

5 (b) Public charter schools are intended to empower new, innovative, and more flexible
 6 ways of educating all children within the public school system to:

7 (1) Improve student learning by creating more diverse public schools with high standards
 8 for student performance;

9 (2) Allow innovative educational methods, practices and programs that engage students
 10 in the learning process, thus resulting in higher student achievement;

11 (3) Enable schools to establish a distinctive school curriculum, a specialized academic or
12 technical theme, or method of instruction;

13 (4) Provide expanded opportunities within the public schools for parents to choose among
14 the school curricula, specialized academic or technical themes, and methods of instruction that
15 best serve the interests or needs of their child;

16 (5) Provide students, parents, community members, and local entities with expanded
17 opportunities for involvement in the public school system;

18 (6) Allow authorized public schools and programs within public schools exceptional levels
19 of self-direction and flexibility in exchange for exceptional levels of results-driven accountability
20 for student learning; and

21 (7) Encourage the replication of successful strategies for improving student learning.

22 (c) All public charter schools established under this article are public schools and are part
23 of the state's public education system.

24 (d) The provisions of this article shall be interpreted liberally to support the purpose and
25 intent of this section and to advance a renewed commitment by the state to the mission, goals
26 and diversity of public education.

27 (e) No provision of this article may be interpreted to allow the conversion of private schools
28 into public charter schools.

29 (f) An elected official may not profit or receive any monetary consideration from a charter
30 school: *Provided*, That this prohibition does not apply with respect to the continued employment
31 of an elected official who was employed by a public school prior to its conversion to a public
32 charter school.

33 (g) The total number of public charter schools authorized and in operation under an
34 approved contract in this state shall be limited to ~~3~~ 10 pilot public charter schools until July 1,
35 2023. The State Board shall report to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education
36 Accountability by November 1, 2022, and every 3 years thereafter, on the status of the state's

37 public charter schools. LOCEA shall report its findings and recommendations, if any, to the
 38 Legislature during its next Regular Session. Beginning July 1, 2023, and every 3 years thereafter,
 39 an additional ~~3~~ 10 public charter schools may be authorized and in operation under an approved
 40 contract in this state. The Mountaineer Challenge Academy, if converted to a public charter
 41 school, shall not count towards the limitation established by this subsection.

§18-5G-2. Definitions.

1 The following words used in this article and any proceedings pursuant thereto have the
 2 following meanings unless the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

3 (1) "Applicant" means any one or more in combination of parents, community members,
 4 teachers, school administrators, or institutions of higher education in this state who are interested
 5 in organizing a public charter school and:

6 (A) Have obtained 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status or have submitted an application for
 7 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status; and

8 (B) Have developed and submitted an application to an authorizer to establish a public
 9 charter school;

10 (2) "Authorizer" means the entity empowered under this article to review applications,
 11 decide whether to approve or reject applications, enter into charter contracts with applicants,
 12 oversee public charter schools, and decide whether to renew or not renew ~~or revoke~~ charter
 13 contracts. Authorizers include:

14 (A) A county school board when the charter school or application to form a charter school
 15 includes a primary recruitment area that is wholly within the county over which the board has
 16 jurisdiction;

17 (B) Two or more county school boards when the public charter school or application to
 18 form a public charter school includes a primary recruitment area that encompasses territory in the
 19 two or more counties over which the respective boards have jurisdiction: Provided, That the
 20 county board of education where a charter school will be physically located must approve the

21 charter application: *Provided, however,* That an applicant may be given the option to relocate the
 22 proposed charter school if the application is approved by the county board(s) of education, so that
 23 ultimately the charter school is physically located in the approving authorizer's jurisdiction; or

24 (C) The West Virginia Professional Charter School Board created pursuant to §18-5G-15
 25 of this code; or

26 ~~(C)~~ (D) The West Virginia Board of Education in the following instances:

27 (i) The charter school or application to form a charter school or to renew a charter contract
 28 is in a county where the state board has intervened in the operation of the school system and
 29 limited the authority of the county board to act pursuant to §18-2E-5 of this code; and

30 (ii) The application to form a public charter school or to renew a charter contract is
 31 approved by the affected county board or boards and is forwarded it to the West Virginia Board
 32 of Education with a request that it perform to the authorizer function.

33 (3) "Charter application" means a proposal from an applicant to an authorizer to enter into
 34 a charter contract whereby the proposed school obtains public charter school status;

35 (4) "Charter contract" or "contract" means a fixed-term, renewable contract between a
 36 public charter school's governing board and an authorizer that identifies the roles, powers,
 37 responsibilities, operational duties, accountability, and performance expectations for each party
 38 to the contract, consistent with the requirements of this article;

39 (5) "Conversion public charter school" means a public charter school that existed as a
 40 noncharter public school before becoming a public charter school;

41 (6) "County board" means a board exercising management and control of a school district.
 42 A county board's management and control of a public charter school is limited to only that granted
 43 under this article. In the case of a school district in which the state board has intervened and
 44 limited the authority of the county board to act pursuant to §18-2E-5 of this code, "county board"
 45 means the state board. In the case of a multicounty vocational or technical center, "county board"
 46 means the administrative council of the multicounty center;

47 (7) "Education service provider" means an education management organization, school
48 design provider, or any other partner entity with which a public charter school contracts for
49 educational design, implementation, or comprehensive management;

50 (8) A "full-time virtual public charter school" means a public charter school that offers
51 educational services predominantly through an online program.

52 ~~(8)~~ (9) "Governing board" means a public charter school governing board that meets the
53 requirements §18-5G-3 and §18-5G-7 of this code and is party to the charter contract with the
54 authorizer;

55 ~~(9)~~ (10) "Noncharter public school" means a public school or multicounty vocational center
56 other than a public charter school established pursuant to this article;

57 ~~(10)~~ (11) "Parent" means a parent, guardian, or other person or entity having legal custody
58 over a child;

59 ~~(11)~~ (12) "Public charter school" means a public school or program within a public school
60 that is authorized in accordance with the provisions of this article and meets the general criteria,
61 governance structure and statutory compliance requirements described in §18-5G-3 of this code,
62 and other provisions of this article;

63 ~~(12)~~ (13) "Program conversion public charter school" means a program within an existing
64 noncharter public school that is either preexisting and converted or newly created to become a
65 separate and discreet program governed and operated in accordance with this article within the
66 noncharter public school;

67 ~~(13)~~ (14) "Start-up public charter school" means a public charter school that did not exist
68 as a noncharter public school prior to becoming a public charter school.

69 ~~(14)~~ (15) "State board" means the West Virginia Board of Education; ~~and~~

70 ~~(15)~~ (16) "Student" means any person that is eligible for attendance in a public school in
71 West Virginia; and

72 (17) "West Virginia Professional Charter School Board" means the board created pursuant

73 to §18-5G-15 of this code.

§18-5G-4. West Virginia Board of Education; powers and duties for implementation, general supervision and support of public charter schools. ~~authorizer responsibilities; limit on charter schools authorized.~~

1 (a) The state board shall consult with nationally recognized charter school organizations
2 and establish and maintain a catalogue of best practices for public charter schools applicable for
3 all applicants, authorizers, governing board members, and administrators that are consistent with
4 this article and nationally recognized principles and professional standards for quality public
5 charter school authorizing and governance in all major areas of authorizing and governance
6 responsibility in the following areas:

7 (1) Organizational capacity and infrastructure;

8 (2) Solicitation and evaluation of charter applications;

9 (3) A framework to guide the development of charter contracts;

10 (4) Performance contracting including a performance framework;

11 (5) Providing transparency and avoiding all conflicts of interest;

12 (6) Ongoing public charter school oversight and evaluation; and

13 (7) Charter approval and renewal ~~and revocation~~ decision-making;

14 (b) The state board is responsible for exercising, in accordance with this article, the
15 following powers and duties with respect to the oversight and authorization of public charter
16 schools:

17 (1) Provide forms to promote the quality and ease of use for authorizers to solicit
18 applications for public charter schools, for applicants to complete applications, and for
19 establishing quality charter contracts that include a framework for performance standards. The
20 forms shall be available for use and solicitations made not later than the beginning of February,
21 2020. The forms shall include an application deadline of August ~~2020 for any charter school~~
22 proposing to begin operation for the 2021-22 31st of the year prior to the beginning of operations

23 for the proposed school year. No public charter school may begin operation prior to the 2021-22
24 beginning of the proposed school year following the previous year August application;

25 (2) Provide training programs for public charter school applicants, administrators and
26 governing board members, as applicable, that include, but are not limited to:

27 (i) Pre-application training programs and forms to assist in the development of high quality
28 public charter school applications;

29 (ii) The required components and the necessary information of the public charter school
30 application and the charter contract as set forth in this article;

31 (iii) The public charter school board's statutory role and responsibilities;

32 (iv) ~~Charter~~ Public charter school employment policies and practices; and

33 (v) Authorizer responsibilities for public charter school contract oversight and performance
34 evaluation;

35 (3) Receive and expend appropriate gifts, grants and donations of any kind from any public
36 or private entity to carry out the purposes of this act, subject to all lawful terms and conditions
37 under which the gifts, grants or donations are given;

38 (4) Apply for any federal funds that may be available for the implementation of public
39 charter school programs;

40 (5) Establish reporting requirements that enable the state board to monitor the
41 performance and legal compliance of authorizers and public charter schools; and

42 (6) Submit to the Governor and the Legislature an annual report within 60 days of the end
43 of each school year summarizing:

44 (A) The student performance of all operating public charter schools; and

45 (B) The authorization status of all public charter schools within the last school year,
46 identifying all public charter schools as:

47 (i) Application pending;

48 (ii) Application denied and reasons for denial;

49 (iii) Application approved, but not yet operating;
50 (iv) Operating and years of operation;
51 (v) Renewed and years of operation;
52 (vi) Terminated;
53 (vii) Closed;
54 (viii) Never opened; and
55 (ix) Any successful innovations applied in authorized public charter schools which may be
56 replicated in other schools. The report shall provide information about how noncharter public
57 schools may implement these innovations.

58 (c) The state board shall be the authorizer of a public charter school when a county board
59 or boards approve the application for a public charter school and requests the state board to
60 perform the authorizer duties and responsibilities or when an application to form a public charter
61 school or to renew a charter contract is submitted from an applicant within a county in which the
62 state board has intervened and limited the power of the county board to act pursuant to §18-2E-
63 5 of this code.

**§18-5G-5. State board rule relating to funding for public charter school enrollment and
other necessary provisions; local education agency status; authorizer oversight
fee.**

1 (a) The state board shall promulgate a rule pursuant to the provisions of §29A-3B-1 *et*
2 *seq.* of this code setting forth requirements for public charter school funding. The rule shall include
3 a requirement that 90 percent of the per pupil total basic foundation allowance follow the student
4 to the public charter school, subject to the following:

5 (1) Notwithstanding §18-9A-1 *et seq.* of this code, the rule may provide for modifications
6 to the calculations set forth in §18-9A-7 of this code regarding the allowance for student
7 transportation and in §18-9A-9(1) of this code regarding the allowance for current expense for the
8 purpose of making appropriate adjustments to those allowances to account for student

9 transportation and current expense related funding a school district loses in situations where it
10 pays money to a public charter school pursuant to this subsection without a corresponding
11 decrease in the county's transportation and current expense related expenditures;

12 (2) The rule shall designate which county school district is required to pay for a student
13 attending a public charter school, and notwithstanding the terms in the definition of "net
14 enrollment" in §18-9A-2 of this code, shall provide that the county school district paying for the
15 student attending a public charter school have that student included in its net enrollment for the
16 purposes of §18-9A-1 *et seq.* of this code; and

17 (3) The rule shall require the Department of Education to follow federal requirements in
18 ensuring that federal funding follows the student to a public charter school.

19 (b) The state board may promulgate a rule in accordance with §29A-3B-1 *et seq.* of this
20 code, if necessary, for ensuring the accountability of public charter schools for meeting the
21 standards for student performance required of other public school students under §18-2E-5 of
22 this code and the accountability of authorizers for ensuring that those standards are met in the
23 schools authorized by it. If an authorizer fails to close a public charter school that does not meet
24 the standards, the authorizer shall appear before the state board to justify its decision. The state
25 board may uphold or overturn the authorizer's decision and may revoke the authority of the
26 authorizer to authorize public charter schools.

27 (c) The school district in which the public charter school is located remains the local
28 educational agency for all public charter schools authorized by the county board and the public
29 charter school is a school within that local educational agency except that the public charter school
30 is treated as a local educational agency for purposes of applying for competitive federal grants.
31 The state board is the local education agency for public charter schools authorized by the state
32 board except that the public charter school is treated as a local educational agency for purposes
33 of applying for competitive federal grants. The West Virginia Professional Charter School Board
34 is the local education agency for public charter schools authorized by the West Virginia

35 Professional Charter School Board except that the public charter school is treated as a local
36 education agency for purposes of applying for competitive federal grants.

37 (d) To cover authorizer costs for overseeing public charter schools, the state board shall
38 establish a statewide formula for authorizer oversight funding, which shall apply uniformly to every
39 authorizer in the state. Each public charter school shall remit to its respective authorizer an
40 oversight fee. The oversight fee shall be drawn from and calculated as a uniform percentage of
41 the per pupil basic foundation as provided pursuant to state board rule promulgated in accordance
42 with this section, not to exceed one percent of each public charter school's per-student funding in
43 a single school year. The state board may establish a sliding scale for authorizing funding, with
44 the funding percentage decreasing after the authorizer has achieved a certain threshold, such as
45 after a certain number of schools have been authorized or after a certain number of students are
46 enrolled in the authorizer's public charter schools. The state board shall establish a cap on the
47 total amount of funding that an authorizer may withhold from a full-time public charter school. The
48 state board shall annually review the effectiveness of the state formula for authorizer funding and
49 shall adjust the formula if necessary to maximize public benefit and strengthen the implementation
50 of this act.

51 (e) The state board shall promulgate a rule in accordance with §29A-3B-1 *et seq.* of this
52 code to clarify, if necessary, the requirements of this article and address any unforeseen issues
53 that might arise relating to the implementation of the requirements of this article: Provided, That
54 nothing in this rule may conflict with this code. The rule also shall include a provision prohibiting
55 a county board from discrimination against any district employee involved directly or indirectly
56 with an application to establish a public charter school under this article.

57 (f) All state board rules required to be promulgated by this article shall be promulgated on
58 or before ~~January 1, 2020~~ July 1, 2021. The state board may file emergency rules if necessary
59 to meet the July 1, 2021 deadline.

§18-5G-6. Authorizer powers and duties.

1 (a) Each authorizing authority is responsible for exercising in accordance with this article
2 the following powers and duties with respect to the oversight and authorization of public charter
3 schools:

4 (1) Demonstrate public accountability and transparency in all matters concerning its
5 charter-authorizing practices, decisions, and expenditures;

6 (2) Establish and maintain policies and practices consistent with the principles and
7 professional standards for authorizers of public charter schools, including standards relating to:

8 (A) Organizational capacity and infrastructure;

9 (B) Evaluating applications;

10 (C) Ongoing public charter school oversight and evaluation; and

11 (D) Charter approval, renewal, and revocation decision-making.

12 (3) Solicit applications and guide the development of high-quality public charter school
13 applications;

14 (4) Approve new charter applications that meet the requirements of this article and on the
15 basis of their application satisfying all requirements of §18-5G-8 of this code, that demonstrate
16 the ability to operate the school in an educationally and fiscally sound manner, and that are likely
17 to improve student achievement through the program detailed in the charter application;

18 (5) Decline to approve charter applications that fail to meet the requirements of §18-5G-8
19 of this code;

20 (6) Negotiate and execute in good faith a charter contract with each public charter school
21 it authorizes;

22 (7) Monitor the performance and compliance of public charter schools according to the
23 terms of the charter contract; and

24 (8) Determine whether each charter contract it authorizes merits renewal or revocation.

25 (b) After an applicant submits a written application to establish a public charter school, the
26 authorizer shall:

- 27 (1) Complete a thorough review process;
- 28 (2) Conduct an in-person interview with the applicant;
- 29 (3) Provide an opportunity in a public forum for local residents to provide input and learn
30 about the charter application;
- 31 (4) Provide a detailed analysis of the application to the applicant or applicants;
- 32 (5) Allow an applicant a reasonable time to provide additional materials and amendments
33 to its application to address any identified deficiencies; and
- 34 (6) Approve or deny a charter application based on established objective criteria or request
35 additional information.
- 36 (c) In deciding to approve a charter application, the authorizer shall:
- 37 (1) Approve charter applications only to applicants that possess competence in all
38 elements of the application requirements identified in this section and §18-5G-8 of this code;
- 39 (2) Base decisions on documented evidence collected through the application review
40 process; and
- 41 (3) Follow charter-granting policies and practices that are transparent, based on merit,
42 and avoid conflicts of interest.
- 43 (d) No later than 90 days following the filing of the charter application, the authorizer shall
44 approve or deny the charter application. The authorizer shall provide its decision in writing,
45 including an explanation stating the reasons for approval or denial of its decision during an open
46 meeting. Any failure to act on a charter application within the time specified shall be deemed an
47 approval by the authorizer.
- 48 (e) An authorizer's charter application approval shall be submitted to the West Virginia
49 Department of Education.
- 50 (f) An authorizer shall conduct or require oversight activities that enable it to fulfill its
51 responsibilities under this article, including conducting appropriate inquiries and investigations,
52 so long as those activities are consistent with the intent of this article, adhere to the terms of the

53 charter contract and do not unduly inhibit the autonomy granted to charter schools. In the event
54 that a public charter school's performance or legal compliance appears unsatisfactory, the
55 authorizer shall promptly notify in writing the public charter school governing board of perceived
56 problems and provide reasonable opportunity for the school to remedy the problems: *Provided,*
57 That if the problem warrants revocation, the revocation time frames will apply;

58 (g) An authorizer shall take appropriate corrective actions or exercise sanctions in
59 response to apparent deficiencies in a charter school's performance or legal compliance. If
60 warranted, the actions or sanctions may include requiring a charter school to develop and execute
61 a corrective action plan within a specified time frame;

62 (h) An authorizer may require each charter school it oversees to submit an annual report
63 to assist the authorizer in gathering complete information about each school, consistent with the
64 ~~performance framework~~ statutory requirements of this act and the charter contract.

65 (i) To cover authorizer costs for overseeing public charter schools, each public charter
66 school shall remit to its respective authorizer an oversight fee drawn from and calculated as a
67 uniform percentage of the per student operational funding allocated to each public charter school
68 as established by the state board by rule pursuant to §18-5G-5 of this code.

69 (j) An authorizer may receive and expend appropriate gifts, grants and donations of any
70 kind from any public or private entity to carry out the purposes of this act, subject to all lawful
71 terms and conditions under which the gifts, grants or donations are given, and may apply for any
72 federal funds that may be available for the implementation of public charter school programs;

73 (k) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, no civil liability shall attach
74 to an authorizer or to any of its members or employees for any acts or omissions of the public
75 charter school. Neither the county board of education nor the State of West Virginia shall be liable
76 for the debts or financial obligations of a public charter school or any person or entity that operates
77 a public charter school.

78 (l) Regulation of public charter schools by the state board and a county board shall be

79 limited to those powers and duties of authorizers prescribed in this article and general supervision
80 consistent with the spirit and intent of this article.

§18-5G-9. Charter contract requirements; term of contract.

1 (a) Within 90 days of the approval of a charter application, the governing board and the
2 authorizer shall negotiate and enter into a charter contract, which shall incorporate and be
3 consistent with the approved application. Alternatively, the parties may agree to also have part
4 or all of the charter application be a part of the charter contract as long as it contains all of the
5 requirements below.

6 (b) The charter contract shall address, in detail, the following items:

7 (1) The term of the contract: Provided, That the contract term shall be no longer than five
8 years;

9 (2) The agreements relating to each item required in the charter application and, if
10 applicable, the agreement with an education service provider that the governing boards intends
11 to contract with for educational program implementation or comprehensive management;

12 (3) The rights and duties of the authorizer and the public charter school;

13 (4) The administrative relationship between the authorizer and the public charter school;

14 (5) The process the authorizer will use to provide ongoing oversight;

15 ~~(6) The specific commitments of the authorizer relating to its obligations to oversee,~~
16 ~~monitor the progress of, and supervise the public charter school;~~

17 ~~(7) (6)~~ The process and criteria the authorizer will use to annually monitor and evaluate
18 the overall academic, operating, and fiscal conditions of the public charter school, including the
19 process the authorizer will use to oversee the correction of any deficiencies found;

20 (7) The academic and operational performance expectations and measures by which the
21 charter school will be judged;

22 (8) The process for revision or amendment to the terms of the charter contract agreed to
23 by the authorizer and the governing board;

24 (9) The process agreed to by the authorizer and the governing board that identifies how
25 disputes between the authorizer and the board will be handled; and

26 (10) Any other terms and conditions agreed to by the authorizer and the governing board,
27 including preopening conditions.

28 (c) The charter contract shall include provisions relating to the performance of the public
29 charter school ~~that set forth~~ which will include the academic, and operational performance
30 indicators, measures, and metrics to be used by the authorizer to evaluate the public charter
31 school. At a minimum, the performance provisions shall include indicators, measures, and metrics
32 for:

33 (1) Student academic proficiency;

34 (2) Student academic growth;

35 (3) Achievement gaps in both student proficiency and student growth between student
36 subgroups, including race, sex, socioeconomic status, and areas of exceptionality;

37 (4) Student attendance;

38 (5) Student suspensions;

39 (6) Student withdrawals;

40 (7) Recurrent enrollment from year to year;

41 (8) Governing board's performance and stewardship, including compliance with all
42 applicable statutes and terms of charter contract; and

43 (9) Additional valid and reliable indicators requested by the public charter school.

44 (d) A charter contract shall include provisions ~~for revoking the charter contract~~ consistent
45 with this act and setting forth under what conditions a charter contract may be nonrenewed and
46 the process by which a nonrenewal may occur. At a minimum, these provisions shall include:

47 ~~(1) The information that must be included in the authorizer's initial decision to revoke the~~
48 ~~charter contract~~ The amount of time before nonrenewal in which the authorizer shall notify the
49 public charter school of the prospect that the charter contract may be nonrenewed and the

50 reasons for the potential nonrenewal;

51 ~~(2) Notification requirements to the governing board about the authorizer's initial decision~~
52 ~~to revoke a charter contract and the reasons for the revocation~~ The right to be represented by
53 counsel at all meetings, hearings, and interactions between the governing board and the
54 authorizer;

55 (3) ~~An~~ A reasonable opportunity and timeframe of not less than 60 days for the governing
56 board to provide a response to the ~~authorizer's initial decision to revoke the charter contract~~
57 proposed nonrenewal;

58 (4) An opportunity for the governing board to submit documentation and provide testimony
59 ~~as to~~ setting forth why the charter contract should not be ~~revoked~~ renewed;

60 (5) An opportunity for a recorded public hearing, at the request of the governing board;

61 (6) That the authorizer shall consider the governing board's response, testimony, and
62 documentation, as well as the recorded public hearing, prior to rendering a final decision on the
63 ~~revocation~~ nonrenewal of the charter contract;

64 (7) The information that must be included in the authorizer's final decision if it determines
65 not to revoke renew the charter contract;

66 (8) A timeline for an authorizer to render a final decision on whether or not to ~~revoke~~ renew
67 a charter contract;

68 (9) Rendering of the authorizer's decision shall be adopted as a resolution during an open
69 meeting; and

70 (10) A provision that the failure of the authorizer to act on a renewal application within the
71 designated timeframes shall be deemed approval of the application.

72 (e) The authorizer shall be responsible for collecting and reporting to the state board all
73 state-required assessment and achievement data for the public charter school.

74 (f) The charter contract shall be signed by the chair of the governing board and the
75 president of the county board, presidents of the county boards, the president of the state board

76 or the ~~president of the public or private institution of higher education~~ chairman of the West
 77 Virginia Professional Charter School Board, as applicable. A copy of the executed charter contract
 78 shall be provided to the State Superintendent of Schools.

79 (g) No public charter school may commence operations without a charter contract that
 80 meets the requirements of this section, has been properly executed, and has been approved by,
 81 as applicable, a county board, county boards, ~~or~~ the state board, or the West Virginia Professional
 82 Charter School Board.

**§18-5G-10. Charter contract renewal; performance report by authorizer and renewal
 guidance; renewal application; renewal term; nonrenewal; ~~and revocation closure~~
 and dissolution.**

1 (a) No later than June 30 of a public charter school's fourth year of operation under each
 2 five-year term of a charter contract, the authorizer shall issue a performance report on the public
 3 charter school. The performance report shall summarize the public charter school's performance
 4 record to date, based on the data collected under the ~~performance framework in section eleven~~
 5 ~~of this article and~~ statutory requirements of this act and the charter contract, and shall provide
 6 notice of any weaknesses or concerns perceived by the authorizer concerning the school that
 7 may jeopardize its position in seeking renewal if not timely rectified. The school and the authorizer
 8 shall mutually agree to a reasonable time period for the public charter school to respond to the
 9 performance report and submit any corrections for the report.

10 (b) ~~If the public charter school's contract is expiring,~~ No later than June 30 of a public
 11 charter school's fourth year of operation under each five-year term of a charter contract, the
 12 authorizer shall ~~offer~~ issue contract renewal application guidance to the school. The renewal
 13 application guidance required by this subsection shall include or refer explicitly to the criteria and
 14 standards that will guide the authorizer's renewal decisions as it pertains to the named public
 15 charter school. These criteria and standards shall be based on the ~~performance framework set~~
 16 ~~forth in section eleven of this article, as set forth in~~ statutory requirements of this act and the

17 charter contract ~~and consistent with this article~~. The renewal application guidance shall, at a
18 minimum, require and provide an opportunity for the public charter school to:

19 (1) Present additional evidence, beyond the data contained in the performance report,
20 supporting its case for charter renewal;

21 (2) Describe improvements undertaken or planned for the school; and

22 (3) Detail the school's plans for the next charter term.

23 (c) No later than September 30 of a public charter school's final authorized year of
24 operation under a term of a charter contract, the governing board of the public charter school
25 seeking renewal shall submit a renewal application to the authorizer pursuant to the renewal
26 application guidance offered by the authorizer under subsection (b) of this section. The authorizer
27 shall rule in a public meeting and by resolution on the renewal application no later than 45 days
28 after the filing of the renewal application. In making charter renewal decisions, the authorizer shall:

29 (1) Ground its decisions on a thorough analysis of evidence of the school's performance
30 over the term of the charter contract in accordance with the terms ~~and measures established in~~
31 ~~the performance framework~~ set forth in the charter contract and the annual performance reports;

32 (2) Ensure that data used in making renewal decisions are available to the public charter
33 school and the public;

34 (3) Provide a public report summarizing the evidence basis for each decision; and

35 (4) Include one of the following rulings:

36 (A) Renew the charter contract for another term of five years based on the school's
37 performance data and demonstrated capacities of the public charter school; or

38 (B) Decline to renew the charter contract. The authorizer shall clearly state in a resolution
39 the reasons for the nonrenewal. The governing board of the school shall be granted 30 days to
40 respond in writing to the decision and public report before that decision becomes final. The
41 governing board shall be allowed to provide the authorizer with such arguments and supporting
42 information as it sees fit and also shall be granted an opportunity for a recorded public hearing,

43 at the request of the governing board. The governing board may be represented by counsel at
 44 the hearing and may call witnesses to testify. The authorizer shall consider the governing board's
 45 response, testimony, and documentation, as well as the recorded public hearing, prior to
 46 rendering a final decision on the ~~revocation~~ renewal of the charter contract. The authorizer shall
 47 render its final determination within 10 days of the close of the 30-day period. Any nonrenewal of
 48 a charter contract may be appealed to the state board pursuant to §18-5G-13 of this code.

49 (d) The failure of the authorizer to act on a renewal application within the designated
 50 timeframes shall be deemed an approval of the renewal application.

51 (e) Within 10 days of taking final action to renew or not renew ~~or revoke~~ a charter under
 52 this section, the authorizer shall report the action taken and reasons for the decision to the
 53 school's governing board and the state board or affected county board, as applicable. A copy of
 54 the report shall be submitted at the same time to the state superintendent.

55 (f) A charter contract may be ~~revoked at any time or~~ not renewed if the authorizer
 56 determines that the health and safety of students attending the public charter school is threatened
 57 or at such time following the process set forth in this section if the public charter school has:

58 (A) Failed to substantially comply with the provisions of this article:

59 (B) Committed a material violation of any of the terms, conditions, standards or procedures
 60 required under this chapter or the charter contract;

61 (C) Failed to substantially meet the performance expectations set forth in the charter
 62 contract;

63 (D) Failed to substantially meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management; or

64 (E) Violated any provision of law from which the school was not exempted.

65 ~~(g) If an authorizer does not renew or revokes a charter contract, the authorizer shall~~
 66 ~~clearly state in a resolution in a public meeting the reasons for the nonrenewal or revocation.~~

67 ~~(h)~~ (g) If an authorizer ~~revokes~~ does not renew a charter contract, the authorizer shall
 68 close the school: *Provided*, That when the charter is ~~revoked or~~ not renewed for a school that

69 began as a conversion public charter school or program conversion public charter school, the
70 county board of the district in which the school is located may return it to noncharter public school
71 status.

72 ~~(i) If a public charter school is closed, the authorizer shall clearly state in a resolution in a~~
73 ~~public meeting, the reasons for the closure.~~

74 (h) A charter contract may be revoked at any time if the authorizer determines that the
75 health and safety of students attending the public charter school is threatened.

76 ~~(j)~~ (i) In the event of a public charter school closure for any reason, the authorizer shall
77 oversee and work with the closing school to ensure a smooth and orderly closure and transition
78 for students and parents, as guided by the closure protocol established by the state board
79 including, but not limited to, the following:

80 (1) Overseeing and working with the closing public charter school to ensure timely
81 notification to parents, orderly transition of students and student records to new schools and
82 proper disposition of school funds, property and assets in accordance with the requirements of
83 this chapter; and

84 (2) Distributing the assets of the public charter school first to satisfy outstanding payroll
85 obligations for employees of the public charter school and then to creditors of the public charter
86 school. Any remaining funds shall be paid to the county board. If the assets of the public charter
87 school are insufficient to pay all parties to whom the public charter school owes compensation,
88 the prioritization of distribution of assets may be determined by decree of a court of law.

89 ~~(k)~~ (j) If a public charter school is subject to closure or transition, following exhaustion of
90 any appeal allowed under §18-5G-13 of this code, an authorizer may remove at will at any time
91 any or all of the members of the board of directors of the public charter school in connection with
92 ensuring a smooth and orderly closure or transition. If the authorizer removes members of the
93 board of directors such that the board of directors can no longer function, the authorizer shall be
94 empowered to take any further necessary and proper acts connected with closure or transition of

95 the public charter school in the name and interest of the public charter school.

§18-5G-11. Public charter school students; enrollment and eligibility; enrollment preferences; random selection lottery; enrollment discrimination prohibited; credit transfers; participation in interscholastic sports.

1 (a) Public charter schools are open for enrollment to all students of appropriate grade level
2 age and all students shall be enrolled in accordance with the following:

3 (1) A public charter school shall provide or publicize to parents and the general public
4 information about the public charter school as an enrollment option for students and the process
5 for application and enrollment, including dates and timelines. If the public charter school includes
6 in its mission a specific focus on students with special needs, including, but not limited to, at-risk
7 students, English language learners, students with severe disciplinary problems at a noncharter
8 public school or students involved with the juvenile justice system, it shall include the information
9 in such publication. A public charter school's recruitment effort shall include all segments of the
10 student populations served by noncharter public schools of comparable grade levels;

11 (2) A county board shall provide or publicize to parents and the general public information
12 about public charter schools within the county as an enrollment option to the same extent and
13 through the same means that the county provides and publicizes information about noncharter
14 public schools in the county;

15 (3) A county board may not require any student residing in the county to enroll in a public
16 charter school, nor may it prohibit any public charter school student from returning to a noncharter
17 public school;

18 (4) A public charter school shall designate its primary recruitment area in its charter
19 application and charter contract. The establishment of a primary recruitment area by a public
20 charter school does not negate any overlapping attendance area or areas established by a county
21 board or boards for noncharter public schools. A primary recruitment area may include territory in
22 more than one county;

23 (5) The primary recruitment area shall be based on the public charter school's estimated
24 facility and program capacity. The capacity of the public charter school shall be determined
25 annually by the governing board of the public charter school in conjunction with its authorizer and
26 in consideration of the public charter school's ability to facilitate the academic success of its
27 students, to achieve the other objectives specified in the charter contract, and to ensure that the
28 student enrollment does not exceed the capacity of its facility, site and programs. An authorizer
29 may not restrict the number of students a public charter school may enroll;

30 (6) Public charter schools may not discriminate against any person on any basis which
31 would be unlawful for noncharter public schools in the school district. A public charter school may
32 not establish admission policies or limit student admissions in any manner in which a public school
33 is not permitted to establish admission policies or limit student admissions: *Provided*, That this
34 subdivision may not be construed to limit the formation of a public charter school that is dedicated
35 to focusing its education program and services on students with special needs, including, but not
36 limited to, at-risk students, English language learners, students with severe disciplinary problems
37 at a noncharter public school, or students involved with the juvenile justice system;

38 (7) A public charter school may establish any one or more of the following enrollment
39 preferences for:

40 (A) Children who reside within the school's primary recruitment area;

41 (B) Students enrolled in the public charter school the previous school year and siblings of
42 students already enrolled in the public charter school;

43 (C) Children with special needs, including, but not limited to, at-risk students, English
44 language learners, students with severe disciplinary problems at a noncharter public school, or
45 students involved with the juvenile justice system; ~~it shall include the information in such~~
46 ~~publication and~~

47 (D) Children of governing board members and full-time employees of the school as long
48 as the number of students enrolled under this preference constitute no more than five percent of

49 the school's total student enrollment;

50 (8) A start-up public charter school shall enroll all students who apply and to whom an
51 enrollment preference has been established. If the school has excess capacity after enrolling
52 these students, the school shall enroll all other students who apply: *Provided*, That if the remaining
53 applicants exceed the enrollment capacity of the program, class, grade level or building of the
54 public charter school, the public charter school shall select students for enrollment from among
55 all remaining applicants by a random selection lottery. The school's lottery procedures and
56 timelines support equal and open access for all students and take place in an open meeting;

57 (9) A conversion public charter school shall guarantee enrollment to all students who were
58 previously enrolled in the noncharter public school and shall adopt and maintain a policy that
59 gives enrollment preference to students who reside within the attendance area as established
60 prior to the conversion of the school. If the school has excess capacity after enrolling these
61 students and all others to whom an enrollment preference has been given, the school shall enroll
62 all other students who apply: *Provided*, That if the remaining applicants exceed the enrollment
63 capacity of the program, class, grade level or building of a public charter school, the public charter
64 school shall select students for enrollment from among all remaining applicants by a random
65 selection lottery. The school's lottery procedures and timelines support equal and open access
66 for all students and take place in an open meeting; and

67 (10) A program conversion public charter school shall enroll all students who apply for
68 enrollment in the program who, at the time of authorization, are enrolled in the noncharter public
69 school at which the program is operated. A program conversion public charter school shall adopt
70 and maintain a policy that gives enrollment preference to students who are enrolled in the
71 noncharter public school at which the program is operated. If the school has excess capacity after
72 enrolling these students, the school shall enroll all other students who apply: *Provided*, That if the
73 remaining applicants exceed the enrollment capacity of the program, class, grade level or building
74 of a public charter school, the public charter school shall select students for enrollment from

75 among all remaining applicants by a random selection lottery. The school's lottery procedures
76 and timelines support equal and open access for all students and take place in an open meeting.

77 (b) If a student who was previously enrolled in a public charter school transfers enrollment
78 to a noncharter public school in this state, the school to which the student transfers shall accept
79 credits earned by the student in courses or instructional programs at the public charter school in
80 a uniform and consistent manner and according to the same criteria that are used to accept
81 academic credits from other noncharter public schools or that consider content competency when
82 appropriate due to differences in curriculum delivery, instructional methods and strategies, or
83 course designations and sequence.

84 (c) Each public charter school shall be given access to and shall utilize the electronic
85 education information system established by the West Virginia Department of Education, is
86 subject to the Student Data Accessibility, Transparency and Accountability Act pursuant to section
87 §18-2-5h of this code, and shall report information on student and school performance to parents,
88 policy-makers and the general public in the same manner as noncharter public schools utilizing
89 the electronic format established by the West Virginia Department of Education.

90 (d) Each public charter school shall certify annually to the State Department of Education
91 and to the county board of the school district in which the public charter school is located its
92 student enrollment, average daily attendance and student participation in the national school
93 lunch program, special education, vocational education, gifted education, advanced placement
94 and dual credit courses, and federal programs in the same manner as school districts.

§18-5G-13. Appeal of authorizer's decision to West Virginia Board of Education.

1 (a) A charter applicant or governing board of an existing public charter school may appeal
2 a decision of an authorizer concerning the denial of a charter application or the nonrenewal of a
3 charter contract to the state board within 30 days of the authorizer's decision: *Provided, That the*
4 authority to appeal an authorizer's decision pursuant to this subsection does not apply to
5 instances where the state board is the authorizer that denies the charter application or fails to

6 renew a charter contract.

7 (b) The state board shall promulgate a rule pursuant to §29A-3B-1 et seq. establishing the
8 process and timeline for appeals filed pursuant to this section.

9 (c) The state board shall remand the authorizer's decision back to the authorizer for further
10 proceedings if the substantial rights of the applicant have been prejudiced because the
11 authorizer's findings, inferences, conclusions, or decisions are:

12 (1) In violation of constitutional or statutory provisions or state board policy;

13 (2) In excess of the statutory authority or jurisdiction of the authorizer;

14 (3) Made upon unlawful procedures;

15 (4) Affected by other error of law;

16 (5) Clearly wrong in view of the reliable, probative, and substantial evidence on the whole
17 record; or

18 (6) Arbitrary or capricious or characterized by abuse of discretion or clearly unwarranted
19 exercise of discretion.

§18-5G-14. Virtual public charter schools.

20 (a) Virtual public charter schools may be authorized pursuant to this article. To the extent
21 they do not conflict with the following provisions, virtual public charter schools are subject to the
22 same requirements as nonvirtual public charter schools:

23 (1) The Professional Charter School Board may authorize one statewide virtual public
24 charter school which shall not count against the limit in §18-5G-1 of this code. A statewide virtual
25 public charter school shall enroll no more than 10 percent of the headcount enrollment per year;

26 (2) County boards may authorize virtual public charter schools for students in an identified
27 primary recruitment area within the state that is set forth in the charter application. Each county
28 board may authorize no more than one virtual public charter school. Attendance to a virtual public
29 charter school authorized by a county board is limited to students within the primary recruitment
30 identified by the authorizer in its application. Applications to establish a virtual public charter

31 school shall not include within its primary recruitment area a location that is included in the primary
32 recruitment area of another virtual public schools that has already been authorized. A county
33 virtual public charter school shall enroll no more than 10 percent of a county's headcount
34 enrollment;

35 (3) The charter for a virtual public charter school is for a term of five years; and virtual
36 public charter school renewals are also for a term of five years;

37 (4) Virtual public charter school shall be consistent with other public charter school funding
38 as set forth in §18-5G-5 of this code;

39 (5) A virtual public charter school shall not enroll a student who needs special education
40 services unless the student and the parent or guardian of the student first meet with the student's
41 IEP team, or its equivalent, and discuss whether enrollment in the virtual public charter school is
42 an appropriate placement for the student;

43 (6) The governing body of a virtual public charter school shall undergo at least one training
44 per year related to appropriate oversight of the virtual public charter school;

45 (7) A virtual public charter school student, to the extent the charter contract allows or
46 requires instruction to occur outside of a school building, is not required to be physically present
47 in a school building or classroom;

48 (8) Neither the virtual public charter school governing board, virtual public charter school
49 personnel, the virtual public charter school student nor the parents or guardian of the virtual public
50 charter school student, to the extent the program as delineated in the charter contract allows or
51 requires instruction to occur outside of a school building, may incur any penalty or be held
52 accountable for the absence of the student from the school building;

53 (9) For a virtual public charter school student, neither the school district nor the student,
54 to the extent the program as delineated in the charter contract is a learn at your own pace
55 program, is required to comply with the instructional term requirement set forth in section forty-
56 five, article five of this chapter or any other law or state board rule requiring a student to be

57 receiving instruction for any set time;

58 (10) A virtual public charter school is exempt from any provision of law or state board rule
59 that applies to the traditional delivery of instruction such as requirements relating to the physical
60 presence of a student, student monitoring and security, the maximum teacher-pupil ratio set forth
61 in section eighteen-a, article five of this chapter, instructional time requirements and physical
62 education requirements to the extent any of the foregoing conflict with the delivery of the virtual
63 instruction program;

64 (11) Each virtual charter school in the state shall offer a student orientation, notify the
65 parents and guardians and each student who enrolls in that school of the requirement to
66 participate in the student orientation, and require all students enrolled to complete the student
67 orientation prior to completing any other instructional activity;

68 (12) Virtual charter schools must provide, in a manner agreed to in the charter contract,
69 data demonstrating student progress toward graduation. Measurement of such progress shall
70 account for specific characteristics of each enrolled student, including, but not limited to, age and
71 course credit accrued prior to enrollment in educational instruction and course content that are
72 delivered primarily over the internet pursuant to enrollment, and shall be consistent with evidence-
73 based best practices. Virtual charter schools shall also maintain clear requirements relating to
74 student engagement and teacher responsiveness for virtual charter school students and teachers;

75 (13) (A) For the purposes of this section, “instructional activities” means the following
76 classroom-based or nonclassroom-based activities that a student is expected to complete,
77 participate in, or attend during any given school day:

78 (i) Online logins to curriculum or programs;

79 (ii) Offline activities;

80 (iii) Completed assignments within a particular program, curriculum, or class;

81 (iv) Testing;

82 (v) Face-to-face communications or meetings with school staff or service providers;

83 (vi) Telephone or video conferences with school staff or service providers; or
84 (vii) Other documented communication with school staff or service providers related to
85 school curriculum or programs.

86 (B) Each virtual charter school shall develop and adopt a policy regarding failure to
87 participate in instructional activities. The policy shall state that a student shall become subject to
88 certain consequences, including disenrollment from the school, if both the following conditions
89 are satisfied: (i) After the student's parent, guardian, or custodian receives a written report, the
90 student fails to comply with the policy adopted under the paragraph within a reasonable period of
91 time specified by the school; and (ii) Other intervention strategies contained in the policy adopted
92 under the paragraph fail to cause a student to consistently participate in instructional activities. If
93 a virtual charter school disenrolls a student pursuant to a policy adopted under this paragraph,
94 the student shall be transferred to the district of residence and shall not be eligible to enroll in that
95 virtual charter school or another virtual charter school for one school year from the date of the
96 student's disenrollment

97 (C) If a student is transferred under this section, the virtual charter school shall coordinate
98 directly with the school district of residence on the appropriate educational placement for the
99 student in the district. The appropriate educational placement shall be based on assessments of
100 the student's abilities; and

101 (14) The authorizer may establish additional requirements for virtual charter schools
102 enrolling students in grades six and below to ensure they are developmentally appropriate for
103 students. Virtual charter schools enrolling any student in grades six and below shall meet any
104 requirements established and agreed upon by the authorizer and applicant in the contract, and
105 shall develop a mechanism to ensure that these requirements, if any, are met.

106 (b) None of the requirements of this section applies to virtual instruction programs created
107 pursuant to 18-5F-1 et seq. of this code.

§18-5G-15. West Virginia Professional Charter School Board; members; appointments;

meetings.

1 (a) There is hereby created the West Virginia Professional Charter School Board which
2 shall report directly to and be responsible to the state board, separate from the Department of
3 Education, for carrying out its duties in accordance with this article. The mission of the board is to
4 authorize high-quality public charter schools throughout the state that provide more options for
5 students to attain a thorough and efficient education, particularly through schools designed to
6 expand the opportunities for at-risk students. The Professional Charter School Board and public
7 charter schools authorized in accordance with this article are subject to the general supervision
8 of the state board solely for the purposes of accountability for meeting the standards for student
9 performance required of other public school students under §18-2E-5 of this code.

10 (b) The Professional Charter School Board shall consist of five voting members, as
11 follows:

12 (1) One member appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate;

13 (2) One member appointed by the Senate President;

14 (3) One member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; and

15 (4) Two members appointed by the state board, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

16 (c) The chair of the House Committee on Education and the chair of the Senate Committee
17 on Education shall serve as nonvoting ex officio members of the commission.

18 (d) Each appointed member shall represent the public interest and must satisfy the
19 following requirements:

20 (1) Be a citizen of the state;

21 (2) Possess experience and expertise in public or nonprofit governance, management and
22 finance, public school leadership, assessment, curriculum or instruction, or public education law;
23 and

24 (3) Have demonstrated an understanding of, and commitment to, charter schooling as a
25 strategy for strengthening public education.

26 (e) No more than three of the appointed members of the Professional Charter School
27 Board may be of the same political party. No more than two of the appointed members may be
28 residents of the same congressional district. No person may be appointed who holds any other
29 public office or public employment under the government of this state or any of its political
30 subdivisions, or who is an appointee or employee of any charter school governing board or an
31 immediate family member of an employee under the jurisdiction of the Professional Charter
32 School Board or any charter school governing board. No person may be appointed who is
33 engaged in or employed by a person or company whose primary function involves, the sale of
34 services and activities to public charter schools or charter school governing boards.

35 (f) The initial appointments made pursuant to this section shall be for staggered one- and
36 two-year terms. The initial member appointed by the Governor shall serve a two year term; the
37 initial member appointed by the Senate President shall serve a two year term; the initial member
38 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates shall serve a one year term; one of the initial
39 members appointed by the state board shall serve a one year term; and one of the initial members
40 appointed by the state board shall serve a two year term. Thereafter, all appointments shall be
41 for a term of two years. The initial appointments shall be made before August 1, 2021. The
42 Professional Charter School Board shall meet as soon as practical after August 1, 2021, upon the
43 call of the Governor, and shall organize for business by selecting a chairman and adopting bylaws.
44 Subsequent meetings shall be called by the chairman.

45 (g) An appointed member of the Professional Charter School Board may be removed from
46 office by the person or entity originally appointing the member for official misconduct,
47 incompetence, neglect of duty, or gross immorality. A member may also be removed if the
48 member's personal incapacity renders the member incapable or unfit to discharge the duties of
49 the office or if the member is absent from a number of meetings of the Professional Charter School
50 Board as determined and specified by the commission in its bylaws. Whenever an appointed
51 member vacancy on the Professional Charter School Board exists, the person or entity originally

52 appointing a member to that position shall appoint a qualified person for the remainder of the
53 vacated term.

54 (h) Except in the case of gross negligence or reckless disregard of the safety and well-
55 being of another person, the Professional Charter School Board and members of that board in
56 their official capacity are immune from civil liability with respect to all activities related to a public
57 charter school approved by the Public Charter School Board. The official actions of the members
58 of the Professional Charter School Board who are serving in a nonvoting ex officio capacity by
59 virtue of their designation as chair of the House Committee on Education or chair of the Senate
60 Committee on Education are Professional Charter School Board member actions only, and may
61 not be construed as official actions or positions of such member's committee or legislative body.

62 (i) The Professional Charter School Board may appoint an executive director and may
63 employ such additional staff as may be necessary. The executive director shall serve at the will
64 and pleasure of the Professional Charter School Board. The executive director must demonstrate
65 an understanding of and commitment to charter schooling as a strategy for strengthening public
66 education and must possess an understanding of state and federal education law.

67 (j) The Professional Charter School Board shall meet as needed, but at least bi-annually.
68 From funds appropriated or otherwise made available for such purpose, its members shall be
69 reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses actually incurred in the performance of
70 official duties upon submission of an itemized statement in a manner consistent with guidelines
71 of the Travel Management Office of the Department of Administration.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to modify public charter schools generally; to provide for a liberal interpretation; to prohibit the conversion of private schools; to prohibit any sort of profit or monetary consideration by elected officials in relation to charter schools; to limit the authorization of public charter school; to create a process by which to appeal the authorizer's decision to the West Virginia Board of Education; to create virtual public charter schools in West Virginia; to establish the West Virginia Professional Charter School Board; and to provide for members, appointments.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.