

HB 1231 -- Charter Schools

Sponsor: Cunningham (86)

This bill expands the number of districts in which charter schools may operate and who can sponsor a charter school. Any district that is not a K-8 district that has been provisionally accredited for at least three consecutive years since July 1, 1999, is added as a district in which a charter school may be operated. Size and location restrictions on public and private four-year higher education institutions are removed if the college or university has an approved teacher education program; and community college sponsors are expanded to include any community college whose service area encompasses a portion of a district in which charter schools are allowed to operate. The mayors of Kansas City and St. Louis and not-for-profit entities incorporated solely to develop charter schools are allowed to sponsor charter schools. In the case of the Kansas City or St. Louis City school district losing its accreditation, the mayor of either city may request the permission of the special administrative board and the State Board of Education to operate any number of the district's schools as charter schools.