

## HB 2111 -- Charter Schools

Sponsor: Muschany

This bill allows charter schools to operate in school districts that are not K-8 districts, have at least 2,000 students, and have been provisionally accredited for any period of three consecutive years since July 1, 1999. Sponsorship by community colleges is expanded to include districts that are in a community college's service area, and sponsorship by public and private colleges and universities is allowed if the college or university has its primary campus in Missouri. The enrollment requirement of at least 1,000 students for private institutions and the geographical limitation on public institutions are removed. Both public and private institutions must have teacher education programs.

The prohibition on withholding the sponsorship reimbursement from the charter school's payment when the sponsor is a school district or the State Board of Education is removed. Charter school sponsors may spend up to 10% of their sponsorship funding as they wish, but the remainder must be designated to support sponsorship activities or invested directly in the sponsored schools. Currently, a charter school may seek local educational agency status only for the sole purpose of direct access to federal grants; the bill removes the sole purpose requirement.