

**UPDATED SUMMARY  
SENATE BILL 15-216**

**First Regular Session - Seventieth Colorado General Assembly**

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*This summary applies to the reengrossed version of this bill as introduced in the second house. It does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. This summary reflects only the main points of the legislation.*

Under existing law, the state board of education (state board) must grant exclusive authority to a school district to authorize charter schools located within the geographic boundaries of the school district (exclusive chartering authority) if the school district meets specified requirements. The state charter school institute (institute) cannot authorize an institute charter school within the boundaries of a school district that has exclusive chartering authority without the school district's consent.

To recover exclusive chartering authority, a school district must submit a resolution to the state board. The bill requires the school district to provide a copy of the resolution to each of the district's charter schools at least 30 days before submitting the resolution. On or before the date on which the school district submits the resolution to the state board, a charter school or an organization that represents charter schools may submit to the state board a written description of the ways in which the school district does or does not meet the requirements for exclusive chartering authority.

Under the bill, the state board must revoke a school district's exclusive chartering authority if the school district is accredited with either a priority improvement plan or turnaround plan for 3 consecutive school years, unless the school district has a memorandum of understanding with the institute that allows the institute to authorize charter schools within the geographic boundaries of the school district or ~~otherwise gives the institute significant authorizing authority in partnership with the school district that meets other criteria specified in the bill.~~ The state board may reinstate the school district's exclusive chartering authority when the school district's accreditation status improves. *If, by March 15, 2015, a school district enters into and is in compliance with a memorandum of understanding that meets the requirements, the school district is not required to have entered into the memorandum before being accredited with priority improvement plan or turnaround plan for the third consecutive year.*

Under existing law, to recover exclusive chartering authority or retain it when challenged, a school district must demonstrate that it provides fair and equitable treatment to charter schools by taking actions identified in law. The bill also requires the school district to demonstrate compliance with the authorizer standards established in rules of the state board, requires the school district to demonstrate that it performs all of the actions specified in existing law, and adds the following actions that a school district must perform to recover its exclusive chartering authority or retain it when challenged:

- ! Annually issuing a charter application information packet;
- ! Adopting differentiated and streamlined application, renewal, and replication processes for high-quality charter schools; and

! Demonstrating that the school district closes or takes meaningful action to reform schools that are low-performing for 3 consecutive school years.

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Italicized words indicate new material added to the original summary; dashes through words indicate deletions from the original summary.  
Prepared by the Office of Legislative Legal Services.