



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-0660/2
FFK:wlj:jm

2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 64

February 26, 2015 - Introduced by Representatives WEATHERSTON, BALLWEG, BERNIER, HORLACHER, JACQUE, KERKMAN, KLEEFISCH, KNODL, KREMER, MACCO, MURPHY, NYGREN, A. OTT and ROHRKASTE, cosponsored by Senators WANGGAARD and GUDEx. Referred to Committee on Colleges and Universities.

1 **AN ACT** *to renumber and amend* 118.40 (2r) (bm); *to amend* 118.40 (2r) (b) 1.
2 *d.*, 118.40 (2r) (c) 1. and 118.40 (7) (am) 2.; and *to create* 118.40 (2r) (bm) 4.,
3 118.40 (2r) (c) 5. and 118.40 (2r) (cp) of the statutes; **relating to:** allowing each
4 technical district board to authorize independent charter schools focused on
5 occupational education and training or science, technology, engineering, and
6 math.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, school boards may enter into contracts to establish charter schools, which operate with fewer constraints than traditional public schools. Current law also permits the University of Wisconsin (UW)-Milwaukee, UW-Parkside, Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC), and the city of Milwaukee to establish charter schools directly or to contract for the operation of charter schools. A charter school established by an entity other than a school board is known as an independent charter school.

This bill allows each technical college district board, including the MATC district board, to authorize independent charter high schools that provide a curriculum focused on occupational education and training or science, technology, engineering, and math (independent charter technical schools). An independent charter technical school must be located within the boundaries of the authorizer's technical college district or in a county adjacent to the district. This bill does not

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otherwise affect MATC's authority under current law to authorize independent charter schools.

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 118.40 (2r) (b) 1. d. of the statutes is amended to read:

2 118.40 (2r) (b) 1. d. ~~The Milwaukee area~~ Each technical college district board.

3 **SECTION 2.** 118.40 (2r) (bm) of the statutes is renumbered 118.40 (2r) (bm) 1.
4 and amended to read:

5 118.40 (2r) (bm) 1. The common council of the city of Milwaukee and the
6 Milwaukee area technical college district board may establish or enter into a contract
7 for the establishment of a charter school located only in the school district operating
8 under ch. 119, except that the Milwaukee area technical college district board may
9 also establish or enter into a contract for the establishment of a charter school that
10 satisfies the requirements under par. (cp) 1. that may be located in the Milwaukee
11 area technical college district or in a county adjacent to the technical college district.

12 2. The chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee may establish or
13 enter into a contract for the establishment of a charter school located only in
14 Milwaukee County or in an adjacent county.

15 3. The chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Parkside may only establish
16 or enter into a contract for the establishment of a charter school located in a unified
17 school district that is located in the county in which the University of
18 Wisconsin-Parkside is situated or in an adjacent county.

19 **SECTION 3.** 118.40 (2r) (bm) 4. of the statutes is created to read:

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1 118.40 (2r) (bm) 4. Except as provided in subd. 1., a technical college district
2 board may establish or enter into a contract for the establishment of a charter school
3 located only in the technical college district or in a county adjacent to the technical
4 college district.

5 **SECTION 4.** 118.40 (2r) (c) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

6 118.40 (2r) (c) 1. Except as provided in subds. 3. ~~and 4.~~ and 5., only pupils who
7 reside in the school district in which a charter school established under this
8 subsection is located may attend the charter school.

9 **SECTION 5.** 118.40 (2r) (c) 5. of the statutes is created to read:

10 118.40 (2r) (c) 5. a. A pupil who resides within the boundaries of a technical
11 college district or in a county adjacent to the technical college district may attend a
12 charter school established under par. (cp) by the technical college district board of
13 that district.

14 b. If the Milwaukee area technical college district board establishes a charter
15 school that satisfies the requirements under par. (cp) 1. that is located outside of the
16 school district operating under ch. 119, any pupil who resides within the boundaries
17 of the technical college district or in a county adjacent to the technical college district
18 may attend that charter school.

19 **SECTION 6.** 118.40 (2r) (cp) of the statutes is created to read:

20 118.40 (2r) (cp) 1. Except as provided in subd. 2., a technical college district
21 board may establish or enter into a contract for the establishment of a charter school
22 under this section only if the charter school operates only high school grades and
23 provides a curriculum focused on any of the following:

24 a. Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

25 b. Occupational education and training.

