2021 ASSEMBLY BILL 967

February 8, 2022 - Introduced by Representatives WITTKE, THIESFELDT, DITTRICH, BRANDTJEN, KNODL, MACCO, MAGNAFICI, MURPHY and ROZAR, cosponsored by Senators DARLING, ROTH, STROEBEL and WANGGAARD. Referred to Committee on Education.

1  AN ACT to amend 118.40 (2m) (a) and 118.40 (3) (a) of the statutes; relating to:

   high-performing charter schools authorized by school boards.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, a school board, the Office of Educational Opportunity in the UW System (OEO), the City of Milwaukee, the chancellor of an institution in the UW System, a technical college district board, the county executive of Waukesha County, the college of Menominee Nation, and the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa community college may contract with a person to operate a charter school. Those entities are commonly referred to as charter school authorizers.

This bill provides that a contract to operate a charter school between a school board and a charter school governing board must allow the governing board to open additional charter schools if all of the charter schools operated by the governing board are in one of the top two performance categories on the Department of Public Instruction’s most recent school and school district accountability report.

Current law requires that a contract between a charter school governing body and an authorizer other than a school board or the OEO must include such a provision.

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:
SECTION 1. 118.40 (2m) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

118.40 (2m) (a) A school board may on its own initiative contract with a person to operate a school as a charter school. The contract shall include all of the provisions specified under sub. (1m) (b) and may include other provisions agreed to by the parties. The contract also shall include a provision allowing the governing board of the charter school to open one or more additional charter schools if all of the charter schools operated by the governing board were assigned to one of the top 2 performance categories in the most recent school and school district accountability report published under s. 115.385. If the charter school governing board opens one or more additional charter schools, the existing contract applies to the new school or schools unless the parties agree to amend the existing contract or enter into a new contract.

SECTION 2. 118.40 (3) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

118.40 (3) (a) If the school board grants the petition under sub. (2), the school board shall contract with the person named in the petition under sub. (1m) (b) 1. to operate the school as a charter school under this section. The contract shall include all of the provisions specified in the petition and may include other provisions agreed to by the parties. The contract also shall include a provision allowing the governing board of the charter school to open one or more additional charter schools if all of the charter schools operated by the governing board were assigned to one of the top 2 performance categories in the most recent school and school district accountability report published under s. 115.385. If the charter school governing board opens one or more additional charter schools, the existing contract applies to the new school or schools unless the parties agree to amend the existing contract or enter into a new contract.
SECTION 3. Initial applicability.

(1) This act first applies to a contract that is entered into, renewed, or modified on the effective date of this subsection.