



ARIZONA STATE SENATE

Fifty-First Legislature, Second Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1304

charter schools; state board; continuation

Purpose

Continues the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools (SBCS) for 10 years.

Background

The SBCS was established in 1994 with the mission to improve public education by sponsoring quality educational choices in Arizona. The SBCS is Arizona's primary charter school authorizer and oversees most charter schools in the State. According to the SBCS's database, as of August 2013, the SBCS provided oversight for 511 charter schools, including 503 charter schools sponsored directly by the SBCS and 8 charter schools sponsored by the Arizona State Board of Education. The SBCS's charter school oversight responsibilities include approving applications and renewals, monitoring schools' performance, and taking corrective action when necessary. There are 14 members on the SBCS, three of whom are advisory members of the Legislature.

The Committee of Reference (COR), comprised of members of the Senate and House of Representatives Education Committees, held a public meeting on January 30, 2014, to review the sunset and performance audits prepared by the Office of the Auditor General and to receive public testimony. The COR recommended that the Legislature continue the SBCS for 10 years. The SBCS terminates on July 1, 2014, unless continued by the Legislature.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Continues, retroactive to July 1, 2014, the SBCS until July 1, 2024.
2. Repeals the SBCS on January 1, 2025.
3. Contains a purpose statement.
4. Becomes effective on the general effective date, with a retroactive provision as noted.

Prepared by Senate Research

February 4, 2014

KK/BP/lS