

By Senator Truenow

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to charter schools; amending s.  
1002.33, F.S.; defining terms; requiring a school  
district to have an agreement to construct a school on  
vacant land by a specified date; requiring a school  
district to offer vacant land to charter school  
operators within the district before other parties,  
under certain conditions; requiring a school district  
to award vacant land within a specified timeframe to  
the charter school operator that submits the most  
advantageous proposal within a specified timeframe;  
providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (i) is added to subsection (18) of  
section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, to read:

1002.33 Charter schools.—

(18) FACILITIES.—

(i)1. For the purposes of this subsection, the term:

a. "Charter school operator" means an organization holding  
a charter contract with an authorizer as described in s.  
1002.333(2)(a) and charter school management organizations that  
are accredited by a regional accreditation agency, including  
Cognia, the North Central Association Commission on  
Accreditation and School Improvement, the Northwest  
Accreditation Commission, and the Southern Association of  
Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School  
Improvement.

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b. "Vacant land" means a parcel of real property upon which no buildings, structures, or other permanent improvements have been constructed or installed which is owned by a district school board for 3 or more years in a district that has experienced a decrease in student enrollment, year over year, for 3 or more consecutive years, excluding student enrollment of charter schools within the district.

2.a. Vacant land must first be offered by the district school board to all charter school operators within the school district. A school district that owns vacant land must have an agreement to construct a school on such land with a developer or contractor by July 1, 2027. If such an agreement is not in place by July 1, 2027, the school district has 60 days to offer the vacant land to all charter school operators within the school district.

b. Charter school operators have 120 days after receiving notice of an offer from the school district to submit a proposal for constructing a charter school on the vacant land. A school district has 60 days after receiving such proposals to award the vacant land by sending a written notice to the charter school operator determined by the school district to have made the most advantageous proposal.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.