

Senate Bill 578

By: Senators Brush of the 24th and Clay of the 37th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 31 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the  
2 "Charter Schools Act of 1998," so as to allow submission of a petition for a start-up charter  
3 school directly to the state board of education; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other  
4 purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Article 31 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Charter  
8 Schools Act of 1998," is amended in Code Section 20-2-2064, relating to approval or denial  
9 of petitions, by striking subsection (b) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

10 "(b) A charter petitioner seeking to create a start-up charter school ~~must~~ shall submit a  
11 petition either to the local board of the local school system in which the proposed charter  
12 school will be located or to the state board. If the petition is submitted to a local board, the  
13 ~~The~~ local board must by a majority vote approve or deny a petition no later than 60 days  
14 after its submission unless the petitioner requests an extension. A denial of a petition by  
15 a local board shall not preclude the submission to the local board of a revised petition that  
16 addresses deficiencies cited in the denial."

17 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 2.**

18 Said article is further amended in Code Section 20-2-2064.1, relating to review of charters  
19 by the state board and state chartered special schools, by striking subsection (b) and inserting  
20 in lieu thereof the following:

21 "(b) No application may be made to the state board by a petitioner for a conversion charter  
22 school that has been denied by a local board. ~~Upon~~ If a petition for a start-up charter  
23 school has been submitted to a local board, upon denial of a petition for a start-up charter  
24 school by a local board and upon application to the state board by the petitioner, the state  
25 board shall approve the charter of a start-up charter petitioner for a state chartered special

1 school if the state board finds that such petition meets the requirements set forth in Code  
2 Section 20-2-2063 and the provisions of this title; and is in the public interest. If a petition  
3 for a start-up charter school is submitted to the state board without prior submission to a  
4 local board, the state board shall approve the charter of a start-up charter petitioner for a  
5 state chartered special school if the state board finds that such petition meets the  
6 requirements set forth in Code Section 20-2-2063 and the provisions of this title and is in  
7 the public interest."

8 **SECTION 3.**

9 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.