

House Bill 181

By: Representative Mitchell of the 88th

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,
2 relating to the "Charter Schools Act of 1998," so as to provide that the initial term or any
3 renewal term of a charter school shall be for no more than three years; to provide for related
4 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other 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, relating to the
8 "Charter Schools Act of 1998," is amended by revising paragraph (3) of subsection (b) of
9 Code Section 20-2-2063.3, relating to code of principles and standards for charter school
10 authorizers, as follows:

11 "(3) In its discretion, the State Charter Schools Commission may approve a charter
12 school petitioning for authorization pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection for an
13 initial charter term of up to ~~five~~ three years if, based on the charter school's prior
14 performance, it is likely to meet the commission's comprehensive performance
15 framework if approved. If the State Charter Schools Commission approves the transfer
16 of a petitioning charter school to its jurisdiction, the local board shall terminate the
17 existing charter pursuant to the terms of the charter and a new charter shall be established
18 between the charter school and the State Charter Schools Commission. If the State
19 Charter Schools Commission declines to authorize the charter school, the charter school
20 shall continue to operate under the terms of its charter with the local board of education.
21 The requirements of Code Section 20-2-2085 shall not apply to local charter schools
22 petitioning for authorization to the State Charter Schools Commission pursuant to
23 paragraph (2) of this subsection. On and after July 1, 2017, the terms of any charter
24 entered into or renewed between a local board and a local charter school shall include a
25 provision for termination if the local board fails to meet the principles and standards of
26 charter school authorizing on its annual evaluation for two consecutive years."

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SECTION 2.

28 Said article is further amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-2067.1,
29 relating to amendment of terms of charter for charter school, initial term of charter, and
30 annual report, as follows:

31 "~~(b) The~~ On and after July 1, 2019, the initial term of a charter, except for a charter system
32 or a local charter school that has transferred its authorization to the State Charter Schools
33 Commission pursuant to subsection (b) of Code Section 20-2-2063.3, shall be for a
34 ~~minimum of five~~ three years, unless the petitioner shall request a shorter period of time;
35 ~~and shall not exceed ten years.~~ The local board and the state board, in accordance with
36 Code Section 20-2-2064.1 and subject to the provisions of Code Section 20-2-2063.3, may
37 renew a local charter, upon the request of the charter school, for the period of time
38 specified in the request, not to exceed ~~ten~~ three years. The state board may renew a state
39 chartered special school, upon the request of the school, for the period of time specified in
40 the request, not to exceed ~~ten~~ three years. The initial term of a charter for a charter system
41 shall not exceed six years. The state board may renew the charter of a charter system, upon
42 the request of the local board, for the period of time specified in the request, not to exceed
43 ~~ten~~ three years."

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SECTION 3.

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