

Senate Bill 55

AUTHORIZATION OF CHARTER SCHOOLS BY HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Sponsor: Stuart Adams

Allows a board of trustees of a higher education institution to authorize the establishment and operation of a charter school.

Bill Highlights

- Subject to approval by the State Board of Education, allows a board of trustees of a higher education institution to enter into an agreement with certain individuals or entities to establish and operate a charter school;
- Specifies procedures for applying for authorization of a charter school by a board of trustees of a higher education institution;
- Specifies the responsibilities of a board of trustees of a higher education institution that authorizes a charter school;
- Allows a board of trustees of a higher education Institution as a Chartering Entity to charge an annual fee of a value not to exceed 1% of each WPU for oversight and technical support to a charter school.

Benefits from Having an Additional Partner in Charter Authorizing

- Multiple authorizers broaden the opportunity for innovation and enhance quality and accountability
- This will provide more options for Utah parents and students
- We expect that a high percentage of these charter graduates will go on to higher education, providing a strong avenue to bridge the gap between high school and higher learning and strengthening the K-16 Alliance
- We expect this option will provide a strong environment to motivate at-risk student populations to seek a degree in higher education
- We expect many of these charters will be focused on missions specific to their institution of higher learning such as STEM curriculum, providing a strong partnership for workforce quality
- Higher Education Institutions have strong resources; including considerable education expertise, access to university resources and partnerships, and research capabilities that may lead to innovation and best practices