

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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## SENATOR BERTA GARDNER *SENATE DISTRICT H*

### Senate Bill 185 Sectional Analysis

**Section 1:** Amends AS 14.03.250(b) to require school boards to adopt a process for the conversion of existing schools into charter schools.

**Section 2:** Adds a new subsection to have a school district assist a charter school applicant in converting an existing neighborhood school into a charter school. The school board can approve the applicant (a majority of parents of students who attend the existing school) if all the requirements are met. Once approved, the school board shall transfer operation, furnishings, materials and fixtures to the advisory body of the charter school. Lastly, the district shall continue to pay for costs associated with operating the school from the district budget and may not charge rent to the charter school.

**Section 3:** Creates a charter school state grant program. A charter school will be able to receive a onetime grant from the Department of Education and Early Development equal to the amount of \$500 per child enrolled in the school of Oct. 1 of the first year the school applies for the grant. The grant is to be used for educational services such as curriculum development, program development and special education services. The Department will develop regulations for application and expenditures of the grant. Lastly, subsection (c) states if insufficient funds are allocated to cover the full grant the charter school may apply in the subsequent fiscal year for the remaining balance.

**Section 4:** Adds clean-up language to ensure students who attend a charter school converted from a neighborhood public school continues to serve the students who were previously enrolled.

**Section 5:** Adds a new subsection to prioritize enrollment for the converted charter school. The first priority would be students that were enrolled in the school before conversion, then students who reside in the area, then all other applicants.

**Section 6 and 7:** Adds a 10% increase to the BSA for students that attend a charter school.

**Section 8:** Removes the sunset for the federal charter school grant program.