



ROSENSTEIN, FIST & RINGOLD

RED BANNER UPDATE

Date: June 6, 2023

Re: SB 516

Signed: June 5, 2023

Effective: September 1, 2023 (Sections 1-3 and 21)
July 1, 2024 (Sections 4-20 and 22)

Topic: **Statewide Charter School Board**

Summary: This bill creates new laws (70 O.S. § 3-132, et seq.) and amends existing laws (70 O.S. §§ 3-104 5-200, 18-124, 1210.704) regarding charter school sponsorship. The new law establishes a Statewide Charter School Board beginning July 1, 2024. The Board is vested with the sole authority to sponsor statewide *virtual* charter schools and to also sponsor charter schools in the state. The new law sets forth the state board requirements, powers and duties. The new law also establishes a revolving fund for the Board as well as a Charter Schools Incentive Fund.

Due to the lengthy nature of the new law, the entirety of the amendments and new provisions cannot be fully detailed in this alert. However, what we believe to be of primary interest to our school district clients is the withdrawal of a technology center's ability to sponsor charter schools. 70 O.S. § 3-132.1 (Page 22 of the Act).

The Act further provides that beginning July 1, 2024 a school district's board shall approve or deny a charter school application within sixty (60) days of receipt (Page 31).

The Act also sets forth the requirements regarding students transferring to a virtual charter school (Pages 51-53). Also contained with the Act is a requirement for the governing board of a charter school sponsor to designate a representative to complete an annual sponsor workshop requirement provided by the Statewide Charter School Board beginning with the 2024-2025 school year (Page 62). Furthermore, a charter school sponsor that enters into a new or renewed sponsorship contract on or after July 1, 2024, is required to complete training provided by the new Statewide Charter School Board.



For more information on this Act, please visit the firm's website to view the signed Act.

Legal counsel at the firm is currently reviewing this legislation and will be advising clients as to any recommended changes to existing district policies.