

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill No:** SB 27a

**49th Legislature, 1st Session, 2009**

**Short Title:** Charter School Application Time Period

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Mary Jane M. García

**Analyst:** David Harrell

**Date:** February 24, 2009

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**AS AMENDED**

**The Senate Floor Amendment changes the deadline for filing a letter of intent from no later than January 1 to no later than the second Tuesday in January.**

**Original Bill Summary:**

SB 27 amends the *Charter Schools Act* in two ways:

- to limit the submission period for charter school applications to the period between June 1 and July 1 to be eligible for consideration for the following fiscal year; and
- to require the chartering authority, whether a local school board or the Public Education Commission, to rule on the application by September 1 of the year in which the application was received.

Also, on a technical point, SB 27 specifies that a letter of intent to establish a charter school must be filed no later than January 1 of the year in which an application is to be filed. (Current law requires the letter at least 180 days before the application, which, given the current deadline of July 1, is on or about January 1.)

**Fiscal Impact:**

SB 27 makes no appropriation.

**Issues:**

Current law allows charter school applications to be submitted any time before July 1 to be considered for the following fiscal year and requires the chartering authority to rule on the application within 60 days of receipt. The analysis by the Public Education Department (PED) explains that the department has proposed the changes in SB 27 to ensure “a uniform time for submission of applications to chartering authorities and a uniform time for decision making by chartering authorities.” This uniformity, the PED analysis further explains, will facilitate the review of chartering authorities’ decisions by the Secretary of Public Education and the monitoring of compliance by PED.

Finally, in correspondence with the Legislative Education Study Committee, the New Mexico Coalition for Public Charter Schools stated its support of SB 27.

**Related Bills:**

None as of 02-24-2009.