

SB 216 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 4/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits a school district to employ an unlicensed educator with a pending application for 90 days only if the unlicensed educator has not been employed during the previous year with a pending application for the same license.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2017, the legislature passed Senate Bill 205, permitting teachers to teach for 90 days without a license if they submit a license application and complete all required background checks. The purpose of this legislation was to allow school districts to employ teachers while their license applications are being processed. In 2018, the legislature passed Senate Bill 1520 that expanded this option to all employees that require educator licensure.

Under current law, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) may not limit the number of times an educator is employed under the 90-day licensure exemption. TSPC reports that a few educators have applied two or three times for the same license in order to extend the 90-day unlicensed employment period. The bill would limit educators to using the 90-day provision only once per year for each license type.