

SB 216 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Gelser

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 02/04/19
Action: Do pass.
Vote: 4-0-1-0
Yeas: 4 - Gelser, Hass, Heard, Wagner
Exc: 1 - Thomsen
Fiscal: No fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Tamara Dykeman, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 1/30, 2/4

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:

- Impact of limiting educators to one 90-day period if the agency has a licensure processing backlog
- Teacher shortages
- Out-of-state teacher applicants
- School district licensing process
- Impact of missing application information
- Number of educators using more than one 90-day period

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.