

SB 279 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/14, 2/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Teacher Standards and Practices Commission to conduct study on interstate agreement to encourage teacher mobility.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need to ease mobility for teachers
- Existing mobility licensure compacts
- Work of the Council of State Governments
- Needs of military teachers and spouses
- Role of first ten states to join compact

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces measure. Enacts Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact into law. Requires member states to grant licenses to teachers with unencumbered licenses from other member states without having to meet additional requirements except for a criminal background check. Member states can require relocators to meet additional requirements up on renewal of license. Establishes provisions for active-duty members of the military and for military spouses who have teaching licenses. Requires member states to provide information regarding investigation and discipline of teachers to other member states upon request. Establishes the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact Commission, including membership, duties, and rulemaking authority. Allows majority of legislatures of member states to reject a rule. Establishes oversight, dispute resolution, and enforcement responsibilities of state governments in member states. Provides for withdrawal from and amendment of compact. Takes effect when enacted into law in the tenth member state.

BACKGROUND:

Interstate compacts are legally binding agreements among states. Occupational licensure compacts ensure that states honor the licenses granted in other compact-member states. The Council of State Governments (CSG) partnered with the United States Department of Defense (DoD) and the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) to create the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact (ITMC). According to CSG, interstate occupational licensure compacts already exist for medical licensure, nurse licensure, emergency medical service officials, physical therapists, psychologists, audiologists and speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, and counselors.

The compact will allow any teacher with a valid, unencumbered license to move from one state to another and teach if they hold a bachelor's degree, have completed the requirements of a state-approved education preparation program, and undergo a criminal background check in the receiving state. Any additional state-imposed licensure requirements in the receiving state would then be completed by that teacher at their next licensure renewal.

Senate Bill 279-1 enacts Oregon's membership into the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact.