

SB 279 A -A5 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Education

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Meeting Dates: 3/13, 5/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

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. Allows member states to 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.

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:

-A5 Modifies terminology related to armed services. Establishes that compact rules shall be binding on Oregon only if adopted as administrative rules by the state's licensing authority. Removes damages from potential enforcement actions. Inserts provisions ensuring that payments to commission abide by appropriation and expenditure laws of the State of Oregon. Inserts provisions ensuring that Oregon's payment of any amounts due is subject to the state's appropriations, limitations, allotments, or other expenditure authority.

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 ITMC 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 A enacts Oregon's membership into the ITMC.