

SB 802 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Gelser Blouin

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 02/24/25
Action: Do pass.
Vote: 4-1-0-0
Yeas: 4 - Frederick, Gelser Blouin, Sollman, Weber
Nays: 1 - Robinson
Fiscal: No fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
Prepared By: Chris Bechtel, LPRO Fellow
Meeting Dates: 1/29, 2/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure changes when a person may be employed as a licensed educator in a public school without a license from 90 days after the submission of an application for a license to 90 days after a person satisfies the background check requirements as determined by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission. The measure has an emergency clause and takes effect on July 1, 2025.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Background check process.
- Impacts on licensed educator applicants.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) was established in 1965 to ensure that Oregon schools have access to well trained, effective and accountable educational professionals. In 2023, TSPC issued 31,591 licenses. [TSPC Annual Legislative Report 2023](#).

Senate Bill 205 (2017) permitted teachers to teach for 90 days without a license if they submitted an application for licensure and completed all required background checks. The purpose of this legislation was to allow school districts to employ teachers while their applications were being processed. Senate Bill 1520 (2018) then expanded this option to all employees who require educator licensure. Senate Bill 216 (2019) then only permitted school districts to employ an unlicensed educator with a pending application for 90 days only if the unlicensed educator had not been employed during the previous year with a pending application for the same license.