

**REVENUE: No revenue impact**

**FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued**

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
<b>Vote:</b>	6 - 0 - 2
<b>Yeas:</b>	Berger, Garrard, Gelser, Jenson, Read, Roblan
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	Edwards C., Nolan
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Theresa Van Winkle, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	6/15

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Allows the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission to discipline a person who is licensed by or registered with the commission if the person resigned from a public school without providing appropriate notice. Allows the commission to issue a letter of informal reproof to a licensed, registered, or certified person under specific circumstances. Requires the letter to establish terms of a monitoring period for the person to whom it is issued. Permits the commission to notify the employer to whom the letter has been issued. Establishes that the letter is confidential and, except when disciplinary action is taken, may not be posted on an interstate clearinghouse related to educator license sanctions. Permits the commission to take disciplinary action if a person fails to comply with the letter's terms or the conduct underlying the letter's issuance. Repeals provisions related to letters of informal reproof on June 12, 2012. Requires the commission to submit a report regarding the effectiveness of letters of informal reproof to interim legislative committees related to education no later than October 1, 2012. Declares an emergency, effective July 1, 2009.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Examples of circumstances in which an educator would be disciplined via terms in a letter of informal reproof
- Overview of disciplinary process
- Time periods for monitoring educators who receive a letter of informal reproof

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Allows the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission to issue a letter of informal reproof to a licensed, registered, or certified person under specific circumstances. Requires the letter to establish terms of a monitoring period for the person to whom it is issued. Permits the commission to notify the employer to whom the letter has been issued. Establishes that the letter is confidential and, except when disciplinary action is taken, may not be posted on an interstate clearinghouse related to educator license sanctions. Permits the commission to take disciplinary action if a person fails to comply with the letter's terms or the conduct underlying the letter's issuance. Repeals provisions related to letters of informal reproof on June 12, 2012. Requires the commission to submit a report regarding the effectiveness of letters of informal reproof to interim legislative committees related to education no later than October 1, 2012.

**BACKGROUND:** Current statute requires the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) to suspend the license of an educator who has entered into a teaching contract and resigns without 60 days notice to the school district. The commission reports that by the time the case can be considered, the educator is often employed in another district. Suspension of the educator may be a hardship on the newly employing school district and that district's students. SB 119-A addresses this issue by allowing the TSPC to discipline the educator, and requiring the commission to follow statutory guidelines for disciplining teachers and other school personnel.

The measure also establishes a pilot program for the commission to discipline educators via a letter of informal reproof if, following the completion of an investigation, it has been determined that they have engaged in conduct that affects their ability to be professionally effective (based on commission standards) and the commission agrees not to pursue disciplinary action and the person agrees to the terms of the letter of informal reproof, including a monitoring period. The program is repealed in June 2012, and requires the TSPC to report to the Legislature regarding its effectiveness.

6/17/2009 12:10:00 PM

***This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.***