

**SB 5538**

**Teachers Standards and Practices Commission**

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SB 5538 is the budget bill for the Teachers Standards and Practices Commission. The Commission is responsible for licensing teachers and other educators, accrediting educator preparation programs, and monitoring the conduct of its licensees.

The Education Subcommittee recommends a budget of \$6,114,729 Other Funds for the Commission. This restores some of the staff and other resources lost during the past two biennia because of declining fee revenues as fewer teachers applied for new licenses or license renewals. Limited duration positions are added to respond to backlogs in investigations, licensing, and responding to requests for documents and information via emails, phone calls and walk-in requests. The combination of a new on-line licensing system, reconfigured licensing structure, and more temporary resources to address the backloads should not make these positions necessary for the 2017-19. A part-time position is added to assist in some of the administrative functions of the agency and a position is added for the increased accreditation responsibilities. This budget assumes a fee increase.

A Secretary of State audit of the Commission's operations is planned to be completed in time for the 2016 session, which will allow the Legislature to review its findings and take actions on both the Commission's budget and operations, if necessary.

The Education Subcommittee recommends SB 5538 be amended by the -1 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.