

SB 205 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/2, 3/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows a teacher licensure applicant to teach for 90 calendar days after submitting an application as long as the person is not ineligible based on a criminal records check and has complied with all other requirements established by the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission's administrative rules. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Background checks for teachers
- Effect of long-term substitutes on students
- House Bill 2062 (2009)
- Teachers with no criminal conviction who have exhibited inappropriate behavior
- Individuals who may fail certification

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Requires applicant to pass background check and school district to review applicant's employment history before applicant can teach in a public school while licensure application is pending.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon currently has over 65,000 licensed educators. During the 2015-16 budget year, the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) issued 19,507 licenses out of a total of 23,761 applications received. According to TSPC, the current wait time for applicants is less than 90 days.