

SB 205 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Gelser

Senate Committee On Education

Action Date: 03/16/17
Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)
Vote: 5-0-0-0
Yeas: 5 - Gelser, Hass, Kruse, Linthicum, Roblan
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: No revenue impact
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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. 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. 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:

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.