

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 6: Teacher Standards and Practices Commission Licensing and Investigations Backlog

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Education Subcommittee
Carrier: Senator Dembrow

The Education Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend including an increase of \$914,270 in Other Funds expenditure limitation for the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission, and authorizing the establishment of eight limited duration positions (5.00 FTE) in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2024 legislative session to address a backlog of investigations and applications for licensure.

Post-pandemic, the Commission has seen a sharp increase in the number of complaints of educator misconduct it receives. Likewise, applications for licensure have risen past pre-pandemic levels. Both of these workload increases have led to unforeseen processing backlogs, which further slow operations. Higher than expected fee revenues from last biennium provide one-time resources in the current biennium for hiring two limited-duration public service representatives and six investigations positions to work through and eliminate these backlogs.

The Education Subcommittee recommends approval.