

HCS HB 439 -- AUTHORIZATION TO TEACH IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS (Davidson)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Emerging Issues

The bill adds district teaching permits, described below, to a manner in which a teacher may receive a certificate of license from the State Board of Education (SBE).

This bill allows school districts to issue a district teaching permit to any individual who does not currently hold a SBE issued teaching certificate. The district teaching permit allows the holder to teach only in the issuing school district unless another school district also issues permits and recognizes permits issued in this manner as part of their policy.

The bill requires districts to develop a policy listing the qualifications an individual shall meet to be eligible for the teaching permit, which include, at a minimum, a bachelor's degree, professional development, participation in a mentorship program, and background check. The number of teachers issued a teaching permit must not exceed 15% of the total number of teachers employed in the district. If an individual is issued a teaching permit and teaches for four years, the SBE may issue a teaching certificate as specified in the bill alternatively to receiving a certificate due to the permit alone.

Any individual who obtains a teaching permit as described within the bill shall be deemed a teacher for purposes of determining minimum salary, tenure, and retirement (Sections 168.021 and 168.029, RSMo).

This bill provides a new four year certification method for individuals that want to substitute teach. The State Board of Education will issue certificates with a background check and a sponsorship by a public school district. Applicants for certification must also have at least 36 college hours or have completed a 20 hour online training and have a high school diploma or equivalency. Individuals must also complete a two hour orientation containing instruction on classroom management and developed by the district that sponsors them. Certificates will expire if the individual fails to substitute teach for at least five days or 40 hours in a calendar year.

The bill also requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop an online substitute training program with 20 hours of training related to subjects appropriate for substitute teaching.

The bill provides substitute teachers that apply for a fingerprint

background check the opportunity to submit the results to up to five different school districts for a specified fee (Section 168.036).