

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SHB 1120

As Passed Legislature

Title: An act relating to the conditional employment of teachers with lapsed certifications.

Brief Description: Establishing requirements for employing holders of lapsed teaching certificates.

Sponsors: By House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Rockefeller, Cox, Talcott, Quall, Santos, Haigh, Anderson, McDermott, Schindler, D. Schmidt, Pearson, Keiser and Jackley).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Education: 2/1/01, 2/14/01 [DPS].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 3/9/01, 97-1.

Senate Amended.

Passed Senate: 4/12/01, 45-0.

House Concurred.

Passed House: 4/22/01, 81-2.

Passed Legislature.

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Substitute Bill</p> <p>· Authorizing the conditional employment of teachers with lapsed certificates under certain conditions</p>
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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 11 members: Representatives Quall, Democratic Co-Chair; Talcott, Republican Co-Chair; Anderson, Republican Vice Chair; Haigh, Democratic Vice Chair; Cox, Ericksen, McDermott, Pearson, Rockefeller, Schindler and D. Schmidt.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 1 member: Representative Schual-Berke.

Staff: Susan Morrissey (786-7111).

Background:

Teachers must be certified by the state in order to teach in Washington's public or approved private schools. The State Board of Education establishes the rules that govern teacher certification. Currently, teachers who received their continuing or professional teaching certificates after August 30, 1987, are required to obtain 150 clock hours of classes every five years in order to maintain that certificate. If a teacher does not fulfill the requirement, the teacher's certificate lapses. Teachers with lapsed certificates may be eligible to teach as substitutes, but they may not be employed as regular teachers without obtaining additional credit hours.

Summary of Bill:

School districts may employ teachers and former teachers with lapsed teaching certificates. The teachers must complete certificate renewal requirements within two years of re-employment. Teachers with certificates that were revoked or suspended are not eligible for conditional employment.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not Requested.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: Many good teachers have left the profession to raise children or pursue other careers. Some of those teachers have not kept up with the continuing education credits required to keep their teaching certificates current, so the certificates have lapsed. This legislation will help those good teachers reenter the profession and continue teaching while they get those additional credits. It will also help to alleviate the state's shortage of teachers and substitutes. This bill includes many protections. It ensures that returning teachers have a letter of recommendation from the school in which they last taught. It also requires them to get the required credits within two years, and makes their employment status conditional until those credits are completed.

(Concerns with original bill) The requirement that the certificate lapsed no more than eight years before reemployment is unnecessary given the other protections in the bill. The plan for achieving the required credits should be mutually agreed upon by the district and the teacher.

Testimony Against: None

Testified: (In support) Rep. Rockefeller, prime sponsor; Karen Davis, Washington

Employees Association; Larry Davis, State Board of Education; Barbara Mertens, Washington Association of School Administrators; and Dan Steele, Washington State School Directors' Association.

(Support with Concerns) Greg Williamson, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction; and Lin Douglas, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.