

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## SB 5180

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Concerning the licensure and employment of out-of-state teachers.

**Sponsors:** Senators Hunt, Hawkins and Mullet.

**Senate Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education**  
**Senate Committee on Ways & Means**  
**House Committee on Education**

**Background:** Teacher Certification Requirements. Under state law, the Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) is tasked with establishing rules for teacher certification, including requirements for teacher preparation programs. Under rules set by PESB and state law, there are several pathways to becoming a certificated teacher, with the traditional route being enrollment in a teacher preparation program as part of a bachelor or master's degree program.

Teacher applicants must also take a basic skills assessment and report the results to PESB. Applicants must also achieve a minimum assessment score in the subjects for which the applicant has applied for an endorsement.

As part of the initial application for certification, candidates must undergo a criminal history record check through the Washington State Patrol criminal identification system.

Out-of-State Teachers. PESB is required under state law to adopt rules to identify an expedited professional certification process for out-of-state teachers who have five years or more of successful teaching experience, including a method to determine the comparability of rigor between the Washington professional certification process and the advanced level teacher certification process of other states.

A professional-level certificate must be issued to out-of-state teachers if the teacher holds a valid teaching certificate issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

Out-of-state candidates who have not completed an approved teacher preparation program or approved alternate route program may obtain a residency certificate if they have an out-of-state teaching certificate and three years of out-of-state teaching experience.

PESB may also establish criteria to ensure that persons who are applying for residency certification and persons applying to master's degree level teacher preparation programs can demonstrate to PESB's satisfaction that they have the requisite basic skills.

Licensure of Members of the Military and Their Spouses. PESB is required under state law to develop rules for expediting issuance of a license to a person who is licensed in another state and whose spouse is the subject of a military transfer to Washington State.

**Summary:** The Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact (Compact) is adopted. The Compact shall come into effect on the date on which the compact statute is enacted into law in the 10th member state.

Teacher Licensure. Each state in the Compact must compile a list of eligible licenses the member state is willing to consider for equivalency and provide this list to the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact Commission (Commission) established under the Compact.

Upon receipt of an application for licensure by a teacher holding a valid, current—unencumbered—license in a member state, the receiving state shall determine which, of any, of the state's eligible licenses the teacher is qualified to hold and shall grant such a license to the applicant. The determination shall be made in the sole discretion of the receiving state's licensing authority. An unencumbered license is not a restricted, probationary, provisional, substitute, or temporary credential.

A teacher eligible to receive a license under the Compact must undergo a criminal background check in the receiving state, comply with any applicable conditions of employment, and provide the receiving state with additional information for determining compensation.

For active military members and eligible military spouses who hold a license that is not unencumbered, the receiving state shall grant an equivalent license regardless of the other state's participation in the Compact, except where the receiving state does not have an equivalent license.

A state under the Compact may require specific requirements for licensure renewal or advancement and may require additional information from teachers receiving a license for purposes of compensation.

Nothing in the Compact shall be construed to invalidate or alter existing and future cooperative agreements, or limit award licenses or other benefits based on additional credentials.

Teacher Discipline and Adverse Actions. Nothing in the Compact shall be deemed or construed to limit the authority of a member state to investigate or impose disciplinary measures on teachers according to state practice.

Member states are authorized to receive and must provide files and information regarding the investigation and discipline of teachers in other member states upon request, according to certain disclosure conditions.

Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact Commission. The Commission is established as a joint interstate governmental agency comprised of states that have enacted the Compact. Various powers and duties of the Commission are created, including, among others:

- the structure of the Commission, including internal rules;
- the ability to hire employees and establish employee policies;
- establish other administrative actions, including the formation of an executive committee; and
- determine whether a state's adopted language is materially different from the model compact language such that the state would not qualify for participation in the project.

Each member state shall have one delegate to the Commission, the primary administrative officer of the state licensing authority or their designee.

The Commission shall exercise rulemaking powers pursuant to the criteria set forth in the Compact and rules adopted under its provisions.

Effect and Conflict with State Laws. Member states shall enforce the Compact subject to its terms. The Compact also provides procedures on effectuation, withdrawal, amendment, and severability.

Any laws, statutes, regulations, or other legal requirements in a member state in conflict with the Compact are superseded to the extent of the conflict.

Employment Conditions. The superintendent of a school district may not renew the employment contract of a provisional employee licensed under the Compact for a third year if the employee has not completed both the issues of abuse course and the equity-based school practices requirements under state law.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

2023 Regular Session

Senate 48 0

2024 Regular Session

Senate 49 0

House 92 0 (House amended)

(Senate refused to concur/asked House for conference)

Conference Committee

House 96 1

Senate 41 6

**Effective:** June 6, 2024