

HCS HB 281 -- TEACHER CERTIFICATION (Moore)

Currently, teacher certificates include three levels, the first two of which are steps to a continuous professional certificate, renewable every 10 years. This substitute replaces the three-level system with a two-level system: an initial four-year certificate and a career continuous professional certificate. The substitute grants current certificate holders who qualify for a career continuous professional certificate as of August 28, 2003, such a certificate. The substitute contains professional development requirements for both levels of certification. For the initial certificate, requirements include participation in a beginning teacher assistance program which comprises performance-based evaluations and a professional development plan and two years of mentoring.

The substitute also deletes references to the five-year provisional certification granted to experienced teachers with out-of-state certificates and grants a license to validly certified teachers from other states hired to teach in this state, commensurate with their experience, upon completion of a background check, if the certificate holder annually completes the requirements of the State Board of Education for that level of certification. Currently, holders of a doctor of philosophy degree may be granted a certificate under certain conditions; the substitute replaces the term with "doctoral degree." The substitute permits a fee to be charged for career continuous professional certificates not to exceed the cost of their issuance.

FISCAL NOTE: Estimated Net Cost to Excellence in Education Revolving Fund of \$255,000 to \$408,000 in FY 2004, \$0 in FY 2005, and \$0 in FY 2006.