

HB 1041 -- Teachers and School Personnel

Sponsor: Cunningham (86)

This bill requires successor school districts to ensure access to continuation of health care for retired teachers and employees of a district that lapses, is merged or divided, or otherwise loses its corporate structure, if the original district provided health care benefits at the time of its dissolution.

The bill adds an option for teachers whose certification originates with the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence and permits the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, at its own discretion, to recognize certificates from other federally approved teacher certification organizations.

The bill also permits districts to offer hiring incentives and salary schedule modifications under certain circumstances. School districts are given the ability to suspend for one year the statutory force-reduction provisions relating to teachers when school aid appropriations do not keep pace with inflation and the district has any one of a number of markers of academic or financial distress. Districts that place contracted teachers on leave of absence are responsible for partial payment of the teacher's contract under certain circumstances.

The portions of the bill relating to teacher contracts have an emergency clause.