

## HB 2317 -- Professional Educators' Standards and Practices

Sponsor: Lampe

This bill establishes the Professional Educators' Standards and Practices Act and changes the laws regarding teacher certification by removing the State Board of Education's authority to license teachers and placing it with the newly created Professional Educators' Standards and Practices Board within the Coordinating Board for Higher Education. The 19-member board will consist of nine teachers, three college faculty from teacher education programs, three school administrators, one district school board member, one public representative, and the commissioners of the departments of Elementary and Secondary Education and Higher Education as ex officio members. The Governor will appoint members to a four-year term. The bill specifies the procedures for soliciting nominations as well as organizational procedures. The board will have an executive director.

The bill recognizes teaching as a profession and specifies the conditions for licensure including age, health, and character requirements. Administrative rules on certification must be rewritten within a year of the bill's effective date. Existing licenses are continued. Causes for denial or revocation are established, and procedures by which the board may initiate disciplinary action are provided. The Administrative Hearing Commission will hold hearings on disciplinary actions, and applicants denied licenses are entitled to a hearing before the whole board. Any person teaching without a valid license will be guilty of a class A misdemeanor; and any person using fraud to secure a license will be guilty of a class D felony.

The board will have exclusive authority to approve teacher preparation programs, and any institution whose program is denied approval has a right to appeal the denial. Certain board actions may be delegated to one or more members or staff. Fees associated with certification must be established to cover the cost of administering the certification statutes and will be deposited into the newly created Professional Educators' Standards and Practices Board Fund.