

SB 1066 -- ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Ridgeway (Muschany)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Special Committee on Student Achievement by a vote of 6 to 1.

This bill requires the State Board of Education to issue an initial four-year teaching certificate to individuals who complete certification with the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence, except for special education, early childhood, and elementary education certification. These teachers must have 60 contact hours in specified activities to apply and, to be eligible for a career continuous certificate, must complete 30 hours of professional development within four years, two years in an approved mentoring program, have a successful performance-based teacher evaluation, and participate in a beginning teacher assistance program.

The bill also makes the Commissioner of Education's expenditures on areas of critical need subject to the approval of the Joint Committee on Education. This provision of the bill contains a nonseverability provision.

The State Auditor is authorized to audit a school district in the same way that a state agency is audited.

The provisions of the bill regarding teacher certificates will expire August 28, 2014.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that certification which does not require a person to undergo unnecessary training or a prolonged period without income as a student teacher will help with teacher shortages.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Ridgeway; Eileen Proudlock, American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence; and Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that it would be better to expand the current alternative certification process than to adopt an off-the-shelf program.

Testifying against the bill were Donna Gardner, William Jewell College and Missouri Association of Colleges of Teacher Education; Missouri National Education Association; Deborah Carr, University of Missouri-Columbia, College of Education; Cynthia

Green, William Jewell College; and Gary Howren, Northwest Missouri State University.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say that the provisions concerning oversight by the Joint Committee on Education of the Commissioner of Education's critical needs fund may have some implementation problems due to timing.

Testifying on the bill were Missouri Council of School Administrators; and Missouri School Boards Association.