

HCS HB 1153 -- CERTIFICATES OF LICENSE TO TEACH

SPONSOR: Williams

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 17 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Legislative by a vote of 7 to 3.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1153.

This bill authorizes the State Board of Education to issue a Missouri teaching certificate for individuals certified by Teachers of Tomorrow with verification of their ability to work with children with 60 contact hours in the classroom.

Current statute allows for any person who is receiving benefits from the teacher retirement system to substitute teach on a part-time basis without losing their retirement benefit. This work exemption expires June 30, 2025.

This bill extends the current exemption to 2030.

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that Teachers of Tomorrow is one of the largest providers of teachers with approximately 80,000 in 10 different states. Each teacher goes through a process that includes field support in the classroom for 2 years. Field supervision is also provided by the program and 70% of teachers remain in the classroom five years after they start.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Williams; Aligned; and Dave Saba, Teachers of Tomorrow.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that support for candidates has been lacking in other states and that there is already an alternative option for programs like this to become accredited without having to change state law.

Testifying in person against the bill was Missouri NEA.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say there are currently over forty education prep programs and that there would be enough data to determine which program teachers came from.

Testifying in person on the bill was Perry Gorrell, Dese.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.