

READING CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

House Bill 5215 (Substitute H-1) First Analysis (10-21-97)

Sponsor: Rep. Bob Brown
Committee: Education

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

Currently, according to specialists in education, six semester hours of reading are required as part of the training for an elementary teaching certificate and three hours are required for a secondary certificate. Some people believe the present reading course work does not put sufficient emphasis on training teachers how to recognize reading disorders in students and how to provide instruction and support for students with reading disorders. Too often, say advocates of this approach, student reading problems go undiagnosed, and students fail to achieve their academic potential, because teachers are not adequately trained to recognize them.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would amend the teacher certification provisions of the Revised School Code to specify that the State Board of Education could only issue a teaching certificate to a person who had met the elementary or secondary reading credit requirements established under board rules. The bill also would require the state board, no later than one year after bill's effective date, to develop new reading standards, or revise existing reading standards, to address reading disorders and to enable teachers to provide effective instruction and support for students with reading disorders.

MCL 380.1531

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

The House Fiscal Agency reports that the bill would not have any immediate fiscal impact. (Fiscal Noted dated 10-17-97)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

The aim of the bill is to provide teachers with improved training in the detection of reading disorders in their students (no matter what they are teaching) and in how best to deliver instruction and otherwise support those students. This will reduce the likelihood that students will have their reading disorders go undiagnosed and will

improve the opportunities for such students to achieve academically.

POSITIONS:

The Michigan Dyslexia Institute supports the bill. (10-20-97)

The Michigan Education Association supports the bill. (10-20-97)

The Michigan Federation of Teachers and School Related Personnel supports the bill. (10-20-97)

Analyst: C. Couch

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.