

Legislative Analysis



EXCEPTIONS TO REQUIREMENTS ON HIRING CERTIFICATED TEACHERS

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House Bill 5963

Sponsor: Rep. Kevin Elsenheimer

Committee: Education

Complete to 12-5-06

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5963 AS INTRODUCED 4-25-06

Under House Bill 5963, a school district or nonpublic school could hire a noncertificated, nonendorsed teacher to teach in Grades 9-12, full-time or part-time, if he or she met one or both of the following requirements:

- Possesses an earned master's or doctorate degree from an accredited post-secondary institution in a field of study related to the subject that he or she is assigned to teach.
- Has an earned bachelor's degree and both 1) has a major or a degree in the field of study in which he or she will teach and 2) is annually and continually enrolled and completing credit in an approved teacher preparation program leading to a teaching certificate.

(However, these requirements would be in addition to any other requirements established by a board of a school district or governing board of a nonpublic school.)

Currently under the law, a local school board or intermediate school district can hire a full-time or part-time non-certificated teacher to teach courses in computer science, a foreign language, mathematics, biology, chemistry, engineering, physics, robotics, or any other subject areas determined by the State Board of Education, in grades 9 through 12. House Bill 5963 would extend the hiring provision to nonpublic schools, and also would eliminate the list of courses cited above, along with the State Board's authority to designate courses for which non-certificated teachers could be hired.

The bill would delete the following current minimum requirements for teaching the listed courses:

- Has an earned bachelor's degree from an accredited post-secondary institution.
- Has a major or a graduate degree in the field of specialization in which he or she will teach.
- If the teacher wants to teach for more than one year, has passed both a basic skills examination and a subject area examination in the field of specialization in which he or she will teach.

- In the five years immediately preceding the date of hire, has not less than two years of occupational experience in the field of specialization in which he or she will teach.

Currently under the law, the board of a school district cannot engage a non-certificated teacher to teach a course, if the district is able to engage a certificated, endorsed teacher. However, a board may employ or continue to employ a non-certificated teacher, if both of the following conditions are met: a) the non-certificated, non-endorsed teacher is annually and continually enrolled and completing credit in an approved teacher preparation program leading to a provisional teaching certificate; and b) the non-certificated, non-endorsed teacher has a planned program leading to teacher certification on file with the employing school district or intermediate school district, his or her teacher preparation institutions, and the Department of Education. House Bill 5963 would eliminate these provisions.

Finally, the law currently specifies that if a non-certificated teacher completes three years of successful classroom teaching, the Department of Education and a teacher preparation institution must use the teaching experience to waive student teaching as a condition for receiving *continued employment authorization in a school district and a provisional teaching certificate*. House Bill 5963 would retain the waiver provision, but specify that the teaching experience would *waive student teaching as a condition for receiving a teaching certificate*.

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FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 5963 would have no fiscal impact on state or local government.

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