

Act No. 60
Public Acts of 1993
Approved by the Governor
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STATE OF MICHIGAN
87TH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 1993

Introduced by Reps. Bandstra and Dalman

Reps. Agee, Allen, Anthony, Baade, Bandstra, Bankes, Berman, Bobier, Bodem, Brackenridge, Bryant, Bullard, Byrum, Ciaramitaro, Clack, Crissman, Cropsey, Curtis, DeMars, Dobb, Dobronski, Dolan, Freeman, Gagliardi, Gernaat, Gire, Goschka, Gubow, Harrison, Hill, Hoffman, Horton, Jamian, Johnson, Keith, Kilpatrick, Kukuk, Leland, Llewellyn, Lowe, McBryde, McManus, McNutt, Middleton, Munsell, Olshove, Oxender, Palamara, Pitoniak, Points, Porreca, Profit, Rhead, Rocca, Scott, Shepich, Shugars, Sikkema, Stille, Varga, Vorva, Wallace and Willard named co-sponsors

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 4209

AN ACT to amend section 4 of article I, sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 of article IV, section 1 of article VI, and section 9 of article VII of Act No. 4 of the Public Acts of the Extra Session of 1937, entitled as amended "An act relative to continuing tenure of office of certificated teachers in public educational institutions; to provide for probationary periods; to regulate discharges or demotions; to provide for resignations and leaves of absence; to create a state tenure commission and to prescribe the powers and duties thereof; and to prescribe penalties for violation of the provisions of this act," being sections 38.74, 38.101, 38.102, 38.103, 38.104, 38.121, and 38.139 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Section 1. Section 4 of article I, sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 of article IV, section 1 of article VI, and section 9 of article VII of Act No. 4 of the Public Acts of the Extra Session of 1937, being sections 38.74, 38.101, 38.102, 38.103, 38.104, 38.121, and 38.139 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, are amended to read as follows:

ARTICLE I.

Sec. 4. The word "demote" means to reduce compensation for a particular school year by more than an amount equivalent to 3 days' compensation or to transfer to a position carrying a lower salary.

ARTICLE IV.

Sec. 1. Discharge or demotion of a teacher on continuing tenure may be made only for reasonable and just cause and only as provided in this act. This act does not prevent any controlling board from establishing a reasonable policy for retirement to apply equally to all teachers who are eligible for retirement under the public school employees retirement act of 1979, Act No. 300 of the Public Acts of 1980, being sections 38.1301 to 38.1408 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, or, having established a reasonable retirement age policy, from temporarily continuing on a year-to-year basis on criteria equally applied to all teachers the contract of any teacher whom the controlling board might wish to retain beyond the established retirement age for the benefit of the school system.

Sec. 2. All charges against a teacher shall be made in writing, signed by the person making the charges, and filed with the secretary, clerk, or other designated officer of the controlling board, and a copy of the charges shall be provided to the teacher. The charges shall specify a proposed outcome of either discharge or a specific demotion of the teacher. The controlling board shall decide whether or not to proceed upon the charges, or may modify the charges and decide to proceed upon the charges as modified, not later than 10 days after the charges are filed with the controlling board. A decision to proceed upon the charges shall not be made except by a majority vote of the controlling board and shall be reduced to writing. The controlling board, if it decides to proceed upon the charges, shall furnish the teacher not later than 5 days after deciding to proceed upon the charges with the written decision to proceed upon the charges, a written statement of the charges and a statement of the teacher's rights under this article.

Sec. 3. (1) On the filing of charges in accordance with this article, the controlling board may suspend the accused teacher from active performance of duty until 1 of the following occurs:

(a) The teacher fails to contest the decision to proceed upon the charges within the time period specified in section 4(1) of this article.

(b) A preliminary decision and order discharging or demoting the teacher is issued by the administrative law judge under section 4(5)(i) of this article.

(c) If the preliminary decision and order is to reinstate the teacher, a final decision and order is rendered by the tenure commission under section 4(5)(m) of this article.

(2) If a teacher is suspended as described in subsection (1), the teacher's salary shall continue during the suspension. However, if the teacher is convicted of a felony, the controlling board may discontinue the teacher's salary effective upon the date of the conviction.

(3) If a preliminary decision and order discharging a teacher is issued by the administrative law judge and the tenure commission subsequently reverses the preliminary decision and order of the administrative law judge, the tenure commission may order back pay.

Sec. 4. (1) A teacher on continuing tenure may contest the controlling board's decision to proceed upon the charges against the teacher by filing a claim of appeal with the tenure commission and serving a copy of the claim of appeal on the controlling board not later than 20 days after receipt of the controlling board's decision. The controlling board shall file its answer with the tenure commission and serve a copy of the answer on the teacher not later than 10 days after service of the claim of appeal. If the teacher does not contest the controlling board's decision in the time and manner specified in this subsection, the discharge or demotion specified in the charges takes effect and the teacher shall be considered to have waived any right to contest the discharge or demotion under this act.

(2) An administrative law judge described in subsection (3) shall furnish to each party without undue delay a notice of hearing fixing the date and place of the hearing. The hearing date shall not be less than 10 days after the date the notice of hearing is furnished and shall not be more than 60 days after service of the controlling board's answer unless the tenure commission grants a delay for good cause shown by the teacher or controlling board.

(3) The hearing shall be conducted by an administrative law judge who is an attorney licensed to practice law in this state and is employed by the department of education. An administrative law judge who conducts hearings under this section shall not advise the tenure commission or otherwise participate in a tenure commission review of an administrative law judge's preliminary decision and order under this section.

(4) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the hearing shall be conducted in accordance with chapter 4 of the administrative procedures act of 1969, Act No. 306 of the Public Acts of 1969, being sections 24.271 to 24.287 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, and in accordance with rules promulgated by the tenure commission.

(5) The hearing and tenure commission review shall be conducted in accordance with the following:

(a) The hearing shall be public or private at the option of the teacher.

(b) The hearing shall be held at a convenient place in the county in which all or a portion of the school district is located or, if mutually agreed by the parties, at the tenure commission offices in Lansing. The administrative law judge's necessary travel expenses associated with conducting the hearing outside Lansing shall be borne equally by the tenure commission and the controlling board.

(c) Both the teacher and the controlling board may be represented by legal counsel.

(d) Testimony at the hearing shall be on oath or affirmation.

(e) A stenographer shall make a full record of the proceedings of the hearing. The cost of employing the stenographer and of providing the record shall be borne equally by the tenure commission and the controlling board.

(f) The administrative law judge may subpoena witnesses and documentary evidence on his or her own motion, and shall do so at the request of the controlling board or the teacher. If a person refuses to appear and testify in answer to a subpoena issued by the administrative law judge, the party on whose behalf the subpoena was issued may file a

petition in the circuit court for the county in which the hearing is held for an order requiring compliance. Failure to obey such an order of the court may be punished by the court as contempt.

(g) The hearing shall be concluded not later than 90 days after the teacher's claim of appeal was filed with the tenure commission.

(h) The administrative law judge shall make the necessary orders to ensure that the case is submitted for decision not later than 50 days after the hearing is concluded.

(i) Not later than 60 days after submission of the case for decision, the administrative law judge shall serve a preliminary decision and order in writing upon each party or the party's attorney and the tenure commission. The preliminary decision and order shall grant, deny, or modify the discharge or demotion specified in the charges.

(j) Not later than 20 days after service of the preliminary decision and order, a party may file with the tenure commission a statement of exceptions to the preliminary decision and order or to any part of the record or proceedings, including, but not limited to, rulings on motions or objections, along with a written brief in support of the exceptions. The party shall serve a copy of the statement of exceptions and brief upon each of the other parties within the time limit for filing the exceptions and brief. If there are no exceptions timely filed, the preliminary decision and order becomes the tenure commission's final decision and order.

(k) Not later than 10 days after being served with the other party's exceptions and brief, a party may file a statement of cross-exceptions responding to the other party's exceptions or a statement in support of the preliminary decision and order with the tenure commission, along with a written brief in support of the cross-exceptions or of the preliminary decision and order. The party shall serve a copy of the statement of cross-exceptions or of the statement in support of the preliminary decision and order and a copy of the brief on each of the other parties.

(l) A matter that is not included in a statement of exceptions filed under subdivision (j) or in a statement of cross-exceptions filed under subdivision (k) is considered waived and cannot be heard before the tenure commission or on appeal to the court of appeals.

(m) If exceptions are filed, the tenure commission, after review of the record and the exceptions, may adopt, modify, or reverse the preliminary decision and order. The tenure commission shall not hear any additional evidence and its review shall be limited to consideration of the issues raised in the exceptions based solely on the evidence contained in the record from the hearing. The tenure commission shall issue its final decision and order not later than 60 days after the exceptions are filed.

(6) After giving the party notice and an opportunity to comply, the administrative law judge or the tenure commission may dismiss an appeal or deny a discharge or demotion for a party's lack of progress or for a party's repeated failure to comply with the procedures specified in this section or the tenure commission's rules.

(7) A party aggrieved by a final decision and order of the tenure commission may appeal the decision and order to the court of appeals in accordance with the Michigan court rules within 20 days after the date of the decision and order.

ARTICLE VI.

Sec. 1. A teacher who has achieved continuing tenure status may appeal to the tenure commission any decision of a controlling board under this act, other than a decision governed by article IV on discharge or demotion of a teacher on continuing tenure, within 20 days from the date of the decision. The tenure commission shall provide for a hearing on the appeal. Notice and conduct of the hearing shall be the same as provided in article IV and in rules promulgated by the tenure commission.

ARTICLE VII.

Sec. 9. (1) The tenure commission shall act as a board of review for all cases appealed from the decision of a controlling board. All records of the tenure commission shall be kept in the office of the superintendent of public instruction.

(2) A writing prepared, owned, used in the possession of, or retained by the commission in the performance of an official function shall be made available to the public in compliance with the freedom of information act, Act No. 442 of the Public Acts of 1976, being sections 15.231 to 15.246 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

Section 2. Section 4 of article I and sections 2, 3, and 4 of article IV of Act No. 4 of the Public Acts of the Extra Session of 1937 as amended by this amendatory act apply only to charges filed against a teacher under section 2 of article IV of Act No. 4 of the Public Acts of the Extra Session of 1937 after the effective date of this amendatory act.

Section 3. This amendatory act shall take effect October 1, 1993.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

Co-Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Secretary of the Senate.

Approved -----

Governor.