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BILL ANALYSIS

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Senate Bill 1363 (Substitute S-1)
Sponsor: Senator Shirley Johnson
Committee: Education

Date Completed: 11-29-00

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Revised School Code to:

- **Include alcohol and drug offenses among the types of misdemeanor convictions that require the State Board of Education to give a teacher or administrator notice that his or her certificate may be suspended because of the conviction, and that require a prosecuting attorney to notify a school district, intermediate school district (ISD), public school academy, or nonpublic school that a teacher or administrator has been convicted.**
- **Require a prosecuting attorney to notify the Superintendent of Public Instruction when any person employed by a school district, ISD, public school academy, or nonpublic school was convicted of a felony or a misdemeanors described in the Code.**

Under the Code, if a person who holds a teaching certificate or a school administrator's certificate that is valid in the State or holds State Board approval and is convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor listed in the Code, the State Board of Education must notify the person in writing that his or her certificate or approval may be suspended because of the conviction and of his or her right to a hearing before the State Board. The Code also requires the prosecuting attorney of the county in which the person was convicted to notify the State Board of Education and any public school, school district, ISD, or nonpublic school in which the person is employed of that conviction and of the sentence imposed on the person. A prosecuting attorney is required to ask of each person convicted in the county of a crime described in the Code whether he or she holds a teaching or administrator's certificate or State Board approval.

The Code's notification provisions apply to persons convicted of certain misdemeanors, including a misdemeanor involving cruelty, torture, or indecent exposure involving a child. Under the bill, the notification provisions would apply to a misdemeanor involving any of the following: cruelty or torture involving a child, indecent exposure or other lewd behavior, use or possession of marihuana or another controlled substance, or an alcohol-related or drug-related offense.

Under the bill, the notification provisions would apply to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, instead of the State Board.

Also, under the bill, if a person employed by a school district, ISD, public school academy, or nonpublic school were convicted of a felony or misdemeanors as described in the Code, the prosecuting attorney of the county in which the person was convicted would have to notify the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the person's employing school district, ISD, public school academy, or nonpublic school of that conviction and of the sentence imposed on the person. A prosecuting attorney would have to inquire of each person convicted in the county of a crime as described in the Code whether he or she was employed by a school district, ISD, public school academy, or nonpublic school. The bill specifies that these provisions would not apply to a person who was subject to the Code's notification provisions for persons who hold a teaching or administrator's certificate or State Board of Education approval. Notification concerning convictions of those persons would have to occur as provided for in the Code.

("Conviction" would mean a judgment entered by a court upon a plea of guilty, guilty but mentally ill, or nolo contendere or upon a jury verdict or court finding that a defendant was guilty or guilty but mentally ill.)

MCL 380.1535a et al.

Legislative Analyst: L. Arasim

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have an indeterminate impact on the State and local units of government. According to the Department of Education, from March 20, 1998, through January 25, 2000, 14 individuals had their teaching certificates suspended or revoked as a result of a criminal conviction. The Department of Education was not able to provide the actual number of notifications by prosecutors. No statewide data regarding convictions by occupation (teachers/school administrators) are available for the additional misdemeanor convictions included in the bill. The inclusion of additional types of convictions that would result in a formal process to suspend or revoke teaching and school administrator certificates would result in additional administrative costs to the Department of Education.

Fiscal Analyst: B. Bowerman

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.