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BILL ANALYSIS

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Senate Bill 327 (Substitute S-2 as reported)
Sponsor: Senator Nancy Cassis
Committee: Education

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Revised School Code to establish additional requirements regarding reading instruction for the renewal of an elementary teacher's provisional teaching certificate or the advancement of the teacher's certification to professional certification, beginning July 1, 2007.

Under the bill, for a person holding an elementary level teaching certificate, beginning July 1, 2007, the Superintendent of Public Instruction could not renew the person's provisional teaching certificate or advance the person's certification to professional certification unless, during the first three years of his or her employment in classroom teaching, the person successfully completed at least a three-credit course of study with appropriate field experiences in the diagnosis and remediation of reading disabilities and differentiated instruction.

To meet this requirement, the course would have to include at least all of the following elements, as appropriate for the person's certification level and endorsements: interest inventories; English language learning screening; visual and auditory discrimination tools; language expression and processing screening; phonemics; phonics; vocabulary; fluency; comprehension; spelling and writing assessment tools; and instructional strategies.

Under the Code, to receive a teaching certificate, a person must meet the reading credit requirements established by rule, which include six semester hours in the teaching of reading for a elementary certificate.

MCL 380.1531

Legislative Analyst: Patrick Affholter

FISCAL IMPACT

The Department of Education likely would face increased administrative costs as a result of this legislation. Since the bill would require a new verification of a teacher's successful completion of a three-credit course and appropriate field work before a teaching certificate could be renewed, staff at the Department likely would need to devote extra resources to the verification process, as well as determining what would constitute "appropriate field experiences".

The bill would have no fiscal impact on local government.

Date Completed: 5-2-05

Fiscal Analyst: Kathryn Summers-Coty

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Analysis available @ <http://www.michiganlegislature.org>

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