

# Legislative Analysis



## MICHIGAN TEACHER CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

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**Senate Bill 161 (H-1) as reported from House committee**

**Sponsor: Sen. Erika Geiss**

**House Committee: Education**

**Senate Committee: Education**

**Complete to 6-21-23**

Analysis available at  
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

*(Enacted as Public Act 110 of 2023)*

### SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 161 would amend the Revised School Code to revise requirements for individuals with teaching certificates from out-of-state entities to receive a teaching certificate in Michigan and to revise requirements related to cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training, in addition to other changes.

#### **Out-of-state applicants for Michigan teaching certificates**

The bill would allow individuals with teaching certificates from federally recognized Indian tribes or other countries to apply to the state superintendent of public instruction to receive a teaching certificate with endorsements in areas equivalent to those they held through their previous certification without having to retake the equivalent exams in Michigan. Currently, this waiver is only available to those certified in other U.S. states.

The bill also would add language explicitly allowing any individual who holds a certificate from another state, federally recognized Indian tribe, or country to be eligible for a professional teaching certificate if they have met certain criteria, including having successfully taught for at least three years in that prior jurisdiction.

#### **CPR training**

The bill would eliminate the current requirement that first aid and CPR training must be done *before* an individual receives their initial teacher certification and instead require first aid and CPR training to be provided to new teachers as part of the 15 days of professional development that schools currently must provide to a teacher in their first three years of classroom teaching. (The bill would also make other modifications to the requirements relating to initial teacher certification, as detailed below.)

The CPR requirement would take effect for those working as classroom teachers on or after August 1, 2023, with the requirement that CPR training be done prior to initial certification ending on July 31, 2023.

#### **Additional changes**

Other changes made by the bill include updating provisions relating to the creation of teacher certification exams.

Presently, there is a requirement for the state superintendent to appoint an 11-member committee with specific representation on that committee for creation of an elementary examination, and a separate requirement for a 7-member committee to create a reading examination. These would be removed and replaced with a requirement that a committee of

teachers, representatives of approved teacher education institutions, Michigan education organizations and associations, and experts in measurement and assessment develop and select subject area examinations, as well as the subtest to be taken for individuals seeking an endorsement on their teaching certificate for teaching pre-kindergarten to third grade, or third to sixth grades.

The bill also would move a requirement that the state superintendent work with the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) and groups or individuals representing employers, economic development agencies, trade unions, secondary school principals, middle and elementary school principals, teachers, school district and intermediate school district superintendents, and others as determined appropriate by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), to promulgate administrative rules to allow an individual to use time spent engaging with local employers or technical centers toward the renewal of a professional teaching certificate in the same manner as state continuing education or professional development. The deadline for promulgating these rules was January 1, 2019.

Other provisions that have deadlines which have already occurred would be removed from these sections as well.

MCL 380.1526 et seq.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The bill would create costs for the state and would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on local school districts, intermediate school districts (ISDs), and public school academies (PSAs).

MDE has noted that between SB 161 and SB 162, the bills would create around \$10,000 in costs for MDE to update technological systems due to revised requirements related to teacher certification and endorsements (and, under SB 162, school counselor credential requirements). SB 161 would require MDE to determine new requirements for certificates and endorsements and issue additional certificates and endorsements for teachers from another state, country, or federally recognized Indian tribe; however, MDE has noted that these changes should reduce the staff time necessary to support educators through the certification process. In addition, MDE may receive less revenue due to the removal of requirements for out-of-state teachers to pass the appropriate examinations. MDE has noted that some of the costs created by these requirements would be lessened because MDE is already using a grant to perform the necessary upgrades to their systems to meet these revised requirements.

The bill could create a cost savings for districts, ISDs, and PSAs through the potential expansion of the pool of applicants for teachers. The bill may increase costs for districts, ISDs, and PSAs through the requirement that districts pay for a CPR certificate for new teachers. Currently, teachers must cover this expense.

#### **POSITIONS:**

The following entities indicated support for the bill:

- Michigan Department of Education (5-16-23)
- Michigan Education Association (5-9-23)

- Michigan Manufacturers Association (5-9-23)
- Mackinac Center for Public Policy (5-9-23)
- Michigan Alliance for Student Opportunity (5-16-23)
- World Education Services and Church World Services (5-16-23)
- Michigan Association of Superintendents and Administrators (5-9-23)
- Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Jackson, Lenawee and Monroe Intermediate School Districts (5-9-23)
- Education Advocates of West Michigan (5-9-23)
- Michigan Association of School Boards (5-9-23)
- Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals (5-9-23)

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