

TEACHERS' TENURE (EXCERPT)
Act 4 of 1937 (Ex. Sess.)

ARTICLE IV
DISCHARGE, DEMOTION OR RETIREMENT.

38.101 Teacher on continuing tenure; discharge, demotion, or retirement; continuation of contracts of teachers over retirement age.

Sec. 1. (1) Except as otherwise provided in section 1a of this article, discharge or demotion of a teacher on continuing tenure may be made only for a reason that is not arbitrary or capricious and only as provided in this act.

(2) 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, 1980 PA 300, MCL 38.1301 to 38.1437, 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.

History: 1937, Ex. Sess., Act 4, Eff. Sept. 1, 1937;—Am. 1941, Act 119, Imd. Eff. May 23, 1941;—CL 1948, 38.101;—Am. 1966, Act 15, Imd. Eff. Apr. 6, 1966;—Am. 1993, Act 60, Eff. Oct. 1, 1993;—Am. 2005, Act 136, Eff. Jan. 1, 2006;—Am. 2011, Act 100, Imd. Eff. July 19, 2011.

Popular name: Teachers' Tenure Act

38.101a Teacher rights subject to MCL 380.1230d and 380.1535a.

Sec. 1a. The rights of a teacher on continuing tenure under this article are subject to sections 1230d(4) and 1535a(4) and (5) of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1230d and 380.1535a. For the purposes of this article, a conviction of a violation of section 1230d of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1230d, or a violation of 1 of the crimes listed in section 1535a(1) of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1535a, is considered to be reasonably and adversely related to the ability of the person to serve in an elementary or secondary school and is sufficient grounds to support the discharge or demotion of a teacher on continuing tenure.

History: Add. 2005, Act 124, Eff. Jan. 1, 2006.

Popular name: Teachers' Tenure Act

38.102 Charges against teacher; filing with controlling board; decision to proceed upon charges; written statement of charges and teacher's rights.

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.

History: 1937, Ex. Sess., Act 4, Eff. Sept. 1, 1937;—CL 1948, 38.102;—Am. 1967, Act 216, Imd. Eff. July 10, 1967;—Am. 1993, Act 60, Eff. Oct. 1, 1993.

Popular name: Teachers' Tenure Act

38.103 Suspension of teacher pending certain conditions; compensation.

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) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (3) and (4), if a teacher is suspended under subsection (1), the teacher's salary shall continue during the suspension.

(3) If criminal charges have been filed against a teacher, a controlling board may place the teacher's salary in an escrow account during a suspension under subsection (1). Before placing the teacher's salary in an escrow account as described in this subsection, the controlling board shall provide to the teacher notice of the charges, an explanation of the employer's evidence, and an opportunity for the teacher to respond, either in writing or in person. Health or life insurance benefits, or both, may be continued during the suspension at the option of the controlling board. If the administrative law judge issues a preliminary decision and order under section 4(5)(i) of this article to reinstate the teacher or for payment for salary lost by the teacher during the suspension, the controlling board shall release the money in the escrow account to the teacher to the extent necessary to effectuate the order. If the teacher fails to timely contest the decision to proceed upon the charges or if the administrative law judge issues a preliminary decision and order under section 4(5)(i) of this article discharging or demoting the teacher, the controlling board is entitled to the money in the escrow account.

(4) If a teacher who is suspended under subsection (1) is convicted of a felony that is not a listed offense or of a misdemeanor that is a listed offense, the controlling board may discontinue the teacher's salary effective upon the date of the conviction. If the teacher is convicted of a felony that is a listed offense, the controlling board shall discontinue the teacher's salary effective upon the date of conviction. As used in this subsection, "listed offense" means that term as defined in section 2 of the sex offenders registration act, 1994 PA 295, MCL 28.722.

(5) 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.

History: 1937, Ex. Sess., Act 4, Eff. Sept. 1, 1937;—CL 1948, 38.103;—Am. 1993, Act 60, Eff. Oct. 1, 1993;—Am. 2005, Act 124, Eff. Jan. 1, 2006;—Am. 2011, Act 100, Imd. Eff. July 19, 2011.

Popular name: Teachers' Tenure Act

38.104 Decision to proceed upon charges; appeal with tenure commission; filing; notice; conduct of hearing; dismissal of appeal or denial of discharge or demotion; appeal to court of appeals.

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 45 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, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.271 to 24.287, 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 75 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.

History: 1937, Ex. Sess., Act 4, Eff. Sept. 1, 1937;—CL 1948, 38.104;—Am. 1993, Act 60, Eff. Oct. 1, 1993;—Am. 2011, Act 101, Imd. Eff. July 19, 2011.

Popular name: Teachers' Tenure Act

38.104a Definitions; hearing where witness testifies as alleged victim of sexual, physical, or psychological abuse; use of dolls or mannequins; support person; notice; ruling on objection; exclusion of persons not necessary to proceeding; section additional to other protections or procedures.

Sec. 4a. (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Developmental disability" means that term as defined in section 100a of the mental health code, 1974 PA 258, MCL 330.1100a except that, for the purposes of implementing this section, developmental disability includes only a condition that is attributable to a mental impairment or to a combination of mental and physical impairments, and does not include a condition attributable to a physical impairment unaccompanied by a mental impairment.

(b) "Witness" means an alleged victim under subsection (2) who is either of the following:

(i) A person under 16 years of age.

(ii) A person 16 years of age or older with a developmental disability.

(2) This section only applies to a hearing held under this article in which a witness testifies as an alleged victim of sexual, physical, or psychological abuse. As used in this subsection, "psychological abuse" means an injury to the witness's mental condition or welfare that is not necessarily permanent but results in substantial and protracted, visibly demonstrable manifestations of mental distress.

(3) If pertinent, the witness shall be permitted the use of dolls or mannequins, including, but not limited to, anatomically correct dolls or mannequins, to assist the witness in testifying on direct and cross-examination.

(4) A witness who is called upon to testify shall be permitted to have a support person sit with, accompany, or be in close proximity to the witness during his or her testimony. A notice of intent to use a support person shall name the support person, identify the relationship the support person has with the witness, and give notice to all parties to the proceeding that the witness may request that the named support person sit with the witness when the witness is called upon to testify during any stage of the proceeding. The notice of intent to use a named support person shall be served upon all parties to the proceeding. The controlling board shall rule on any objection to the use of a named support person prior to the date at which the witness desires to use the support person.

(5) In a hearing under this section, all persons not necessary to the proceeding shall be excluded during the witness's testimony.

(6) This section is in addition to other protections or procedures afforded to a witness by law or court rule.

History: Add. 1987, Act 47, Eff. Jan. 1, 1988;—Am. 1998, Act 326, Imd. Eff. Aug. 3, 1998.

Popular name: Teachers' Tenure Act

38.105 Repealed. 2011, Act 101, Imd. Eff. July 19, 2011.

Compiler's note: The repealed section pertained to appointment of teacher on continuing tenure to first vacancy in school district.