

State of Kansas

Senate Chamber



Senate Minority Whip

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ROBERT G. BETHEL ON
KANCARE OVERSIGHT

Proponent Oral Testimony March 6, 2023 House Committee on Education SB 66 Testimony

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 66. This bill helps relieve the burden of additional testing and administrative fees while States retain the power to ensure the competency of teachers. **This bill creates another tool for the Kansas Department of Education to use as an avenue to attract out of state certified educators to teach in Kansas.**

How does the Compact **work**?

- Once ten states have passed legislation, the compact will begin.
- A qualified individual requests a Kansas license based on a license currently held from another compact state.
 - To be eligible an individual must have a bachelor's degree and completion of a *state-approved program* for teacher licensure such as teacher preparation program at a college or university.
 - Further for a license to be eligible under the compact their license must be *unencumbered* (i.e., not restricted, probationary, provisional, substitute or temporary.)
- That individual then undergoes a background check from the Kansas Department of Education

- The Kansas Department of Education then determines the most appropriate equivalent license to issue, if any. The Kansas Department of Education retains the discretion to issue a license.
- The individual may then be granted a license. They would need to complete state-specific requirements at the time of renewal of their license.

The Interstate Teaching Mobility Compact has many **benefits**.

- It preserves the existing state-based licensure system.
- It creates an alternative path to licensure for teachers relocating to a compact state;
- Requires criminal background checks;
- It improves communication between states;
 - Supports information sharing between compact member states
 - Ensures that all adverse actions, disciplines, and sanctions reported regularly to the Commission and shared with member states;
 - Provides a venue for joint problem solving and discussion.
- Improves licensure portability for teachers; and
- Improves mobility for military spouses.

14 other states have introduced legislation to create the compact, including Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Colorado. Passing SB 66 now, rather than waiting to join the compact at a later time, affords Kansas the opportunity to be a founding member of the compact. This allows Kansas to dictate some of the rules that govern the compact

In sum the Compact:

- Creates an agreed-upon regulatory framework for teacher reciprocity
- Speeds up the application process for moving licensees
- Reduces time and resources spent by licensing agencies
- Adds one more tool in the State Board of Education Licensure tool box.

SB 66 passed on the senate floor 35 to 4. I ask the House Education committee to vote SB 66 favorable for passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.