

Legislative Analysis



INTERIM SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHING CERTIFICATES

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<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

Senate Bill 518 as reported from House committee

Sponsor: Sen. Darrin Camilleri

House Committee: Education

Senate Committee: Education

Complete to 2-13-24

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

(Enacted as Public Act 49 of 2024)

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 518 would amend section 1531i of the Revised School Code to extend the ability of the state superintendent to issue an interim special education teaching certificate to individuals going through an approved alternative certification program, as outlined in the section. The current deadline for issuing an interim special education teaching certificate is July 21, 2024.¹

The extension would be for three years, to July 21, 2027. The bill would also allow individuals who have received their interim teaching certificate to continue teaching special education after the new deadline as long as they meet the other applicable provisions of law.

MCL 380.1531i

BACKGROUND:

According to sponsor testimony, the bill is intended to extend the authorization time frame for individuals to complete the alternate program created in section 1531i and earn their interim teaching certificate. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) supports the extension because it says not enough time has passed since its authorization to allow appropriate data collection to determine whether this program is an effective preparation route. The department believes the new deadline will be sufficient in allowing several cohorts of educators to complete their certification through the section 1531i pathway and begin their teaching careers.

FISCAL IMPACT:

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

Due to the extension of the sunset, MDE would continue to incur administrative costs to issue interim special education teaching certificates until July 21, 2027. These costs would likely be absorbed using existing staff time.

The bill would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on districts, ISDs, and PSAs. The extension of the sunset would expand the pool of eligible applicants for special education teaching positions. The direction and magnitude of this change cannot be determined.

¹ Established by 2020 PA 316: <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2019-SB-0657>

POSITIONS:

Representatives of the Michigan Department of Education testified in support of the bill.
(2-6-24)

The following entities indicated support for the bill:

- Michigan Association of School Administrators (2-6-24)
- Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals (2-6-24)
- Wayne Regional Educational Service Agency (2-6-24)
- Oakland Schools (2-6-24)
- Great Lakes Education Project Education Fund (2-6-24)
- Mackinac Center for Public Policy (2-6-24)
- Michigan Association of Public School Academies (2-6-24)
- Michigan Education Association (2-6-24)
- Michigan Educator Workforce Initiative (2-6-24)
- Michigan Association of School Boards (2-6-24)
- Launch Michigan (2-13-24)

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