

HB 2304 -- SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CERTIFICATION

SPONSOR: Lewis (6)

This bill provides a new four year certification method for individuals that want to substitute teach. Applicants for certification must complete a background check and also have at least 36 college hours or have completed a 20 hour online training and have a high school diploma or equivalency. An alternative route to certification is provided for qualified individuals with technical or business expertise or Armed Forces experience and a superintendent sponsorship.

Substitute certificates will expire if the individual fails to substitute teach for at least five days or 40 hours in a calendar year, and no individual under 20 years old may substitute in grades nine-12.

The bill also requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop an online substitute training program with 20 hours of training related to subjects appropriate for substitute teaching, and authorizes school districts to develop district specific orientations lasting two hours.

The bill provides substitute teachers beginning January 1, 2023 that apply for a fingerprint background check the opportunity to submit the results to up to five different school districts for a specified fee.

This bill is similar to HB 1592 (2022) and to HCS HB 608 (2021).