

HCS HB 2304 -- SUBSTITUTE TEACHER CERTIFICATION (Lewis (6))

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 2304.

This bill provides a four year certificate 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, individuals must also have a high school diploma or equivalence. An alternative route to certification is provided for qualified individuals with technical or business expertise or Armed Forces experience and a superintendent sponsorship.

Until June 30, 2025 this bill allows retired teachers that have a substitute certification to substitute part-time or as a temporary substitute and not have those hours and salary effect their retirement allowance.

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 that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) develop and maintain 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 (Section 168.036 RSMo).

The bill adds a web based survey to be developed and maintained by DESE that will collect information from substitutes at the end of each day of teaching. Districts will provide links to substitute teachers to access the survey, which will contain questions regarding the support and interaction with school staff, student health and safety issues, among other relevant questions.

The bill requires that school districts and charter schools annually provide DESE with information relating to substitute teaching as outlined (Section 168.037).

This bill contains an emergency clause.

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