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H.B. 554
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 554's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Lightbody and Bird

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Andrew C. Ephlin, Budget Analyst

Highlights

- The bill may provide school districts and other public schools with a greater pool of teachers to meet staffing needs by requiring the State Board of Education to, upon application, issue a temporary two-year educator license to individuals with an expired teacher's certificate or professional educator license. The bill requires the State Board to issue a professional educator license to a temporary license holder who goes on to complete specified continuing education coursework.
- The bill may increase Ohio Department of Education (ODE) administrative costs paid from the State Board of Education Licensure Fund (Fund 4L20) to process any additional license applications as a result. These costs will be more or less offset by a gain in license fee revenue paid by applicants.
- The annual cost of performing the Bureau of Criminal Investigation's background check activities and services may increase to some degree. These costs will be more or less offset by the fees charged to conduct a background check.

Detailed Analysis

Overview

The bill instructs the State Board of Education to issue, upon application, a two-year temporary educator license to an individual with an expired teacher's certification or educator license. To qualify for a temporary license, an individual must not have any disciplinary sanctions on their expired certification or license. Further, an individual who receives a temporary educator license must complete any training required by the district or school prior to providing instruction. The temporary license is nonrenewable. An individual who receives this temporary

license will be issued a professional educator license should they fulfill certain continuing education requirements during the duration of the temporary license.

The bill's provisions are somewhat similar to a recently revised administrative rule, effective November 4, 2021, that allows for the issuance of a one-year, nonrenewable "reinstatement license" valid in the same grade levels and curriculum areas as an individual's expired license, at the request of an employing school district. The reinstatement license, which costs \$40, is available to an individual whose professional educator license has been expired for at least one year from the effective date of the reinstatement license. The reinstatement license holder must complete certain continuing education requirements to renew the expired license. As a point of reference, the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) has issued 20 active reinstatement licenses statewide since the revised rule became effective.

Fiscal effects

The bill may provide school districts and other public schools a greater pool of individuals to fill teaching positions, as the temporary license under the bill carries less stringent requirements than the current reinstatement license regarding prior license expiration and continuing education (see the bill analysis for the continuing education requirements for each license). The bill's temporary license is also valid for one year longer. Therefore, the bill may lead to an increase in ODE's administrative costs to process additional license applications. However, any additional cost will be more or less offset by a gain in license fee revenue paid by applicants. Educator license fees are deposited into the State Board of Education Licensure Fund (Fund 4L20). Typically, the fee for an educator license equates to \$40 per year (e.g., the fee for a two-year license likely would be \$80). These fees will cover the costs of processing applications, technical assistance related to licensure, administering the educator disciplinary process, as well as other functions.

An applicant for a temporary license under the bill will need to have current state and federal background checks on file with ODE. According to ODE, the checks can be no older than one year at the time ODE issues the credential. Background checks filed with ODE are valid for five years. The bill may temporarily affect the workload of the Attorney General's Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) if the number of background checks requested each year increases as a result of the bill. Any associated increase in BCI's annual operating expenses will be more or less offset by the fees charged to conduct a check. BCI performs state-only background checks by comparing an individual's fingerprints against a database of criminal fingerprints to determine if there is a criminal record. BCI also administers federal background checks through the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which uses a national database to search for criminal history records. The base fees of the state-only and FBI background checks are \$22 and \$25.25, respectively. All of the fees are credited to the General Reimbursement Fund (Fund 1060),¹ with \$23.25 of the FBI background check fee subsequently disbursed to the FBI.

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¹ The Attorney General uses the money credited to Fund 1060 to pay for operating expenses incurred in the provision of law enforcement services, legal representation, and overall office administration.