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BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Fiscal Agency

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Senate Bill 52

Sponsor: Senator Vern Ehlers

Committee: Education and Mental Health

Date Completed: 5-12-89

SUMMARY OF SENATE BILL 52 as introduced 1-11-89:

The bill would amend the School Code to:

- Permit a local or intermediate school board to engage a noncertificated, nonendorsed teacher to teach certain subjects in grades 9 through 12.
- Limit the hours of pupil instruction provided by these teachers.
- Establish minimum requirements for these teachers.
- Prohibit a school district from engaging a noncertificated, nonendorsed teacher to teach a course if a certificated, endorsed teacher were available.

Noncertified/Nonendorsed Teachers

The bill would create an exception to the provision of the School Code that prohibits the board of a school district from permitting a teacher who does not hold a valid teaching certificate to teach in a grade or department of the school, or permitting a teacher without an endorsement by the State Board of Education to serve in a counseling role.

Under the bill, the board of a local school district or an intermediate school district could engage a noncertificated, nonendorsed teacher to teach in grades 9 through 12 computer science, a foreign language, mathematics, biology, chemistry, engineering, physics, robotics, or any combination of these subjects. The total number of hours of pupil instruction taught by teachers engaged by a board pursuant to the bill could not exceed 10% of the total number of hours of pupil instruction taught by all of the teachers in the school district.

The board of a local or intermediate school district could not engage a full-time noncertificated, nonendorsed teacher to teach a course, as identified in the bill, if the district were able to engage a certificated, endorsed teacher who possessed the expertise needed to teach that course as determined jointly by the appropriate local or intermediate school board and the bargaining unit.

Minimum Requirements

Each teacher engaged pursuant to the bill would have to meet all of the following requirements:

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- Possess a baccalaureate degree from a four-year institution of higher education that was approved by the State Board.
- Have a major or a graduate degree in the field of specialization in which he or she was to teach.
- Have passed both a basic skills examination and a subject area examination, if a subject area examination existed in the field of specialization in which he or she was to teach. This provision would take effect September 1, 1991, and would apply only if the teacher desired to teach for more than one year.
- Have at least two years of occupational experience in the field of specialization in which he or she was to teach, except for persons engaged to teach a foreign language.

MCL 380.1233 et al.

Legislative Analyst: L. Arasim

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Fiscal Analyst: A. Rich

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.