



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

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**FEES FOR EDUCATION PERSONNEL**

House Bill 5718 with committee amendments  
First Analysis (6-21-88)  
Sponsor: Rep. James E. O'Neill, Jr.  
Committee: Appropriations

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**THE APPARENT PROBLEM:**

Elementary and secondary teachers' and administrators' certification requirements are administered by Teacher Preparation and Certification Services within the Department of Education. The program is paid for from the general fund. In his fiscal year 1987-88 budget recommendation, however, the governor recommended that the program's funding be shifted from the general fund to restricted revenues derived from fees. Ultimately, the 1987-88 budget did not call for fee-based funding, but for 1988-89 the Department of Education budget bill currently assumes that the teacher certification program will become self-supporting through the initiation of application fees.

**THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:**

The bill would amend the School Code to require school personnel to pay fees when applying for certification. Teachers and administrators would pay to the Department of Education, as a condition of having an application evaluated for conformance with application requirements, fees that would range from \$125 for in-state applicants and \$175 for out-of-state applicants for original application fees, with lesser amounts being charged for temporary permits, endorsements, and duplicate permits, as follows:

ORIGINAL APPLICATION FEE	IN-STATE APPLICANT	OUT-OF-STATE APPLICANT
Provisional Teaching Certificate	\$125.00	\$175.00
Continuing Teaching Certificate	125.00	
Professional Teaching Certificate	125.00	
Full Vocation Authorization	125.00	
Occupational Education Certificate	125.00	
Additional Teaching Certificate		
Endorsement	50.00	
Substitute Teacher Permit	25.00	
Full-year Teacher Permit	25.00	
Emergency Permit	25.00	
Annual Vocational Authorization	25.00	
Duplicate Certificate or Authorization	10.00	
School Psychologist Certificate	125.00	175.00
Parent Cooperative Preschool Certificate	50.00	
Temporary Special Education Approval	50.00	
School Administrator Certificate	125.00	175.00
School Administrator Endorsement	50.00	
School Administrator Permit	125.00	

**ORIGINAL  
APPLICATION FEE**

Mich. State Law Library  
**IN-STATE  
APPLICANT**      **OUT-OF-STATE  
APPLICANT**

**RENEWAL OR REINSTATEMENT APPLICATION FEE**

Provisional Teaching Certificate	\$ 75.00
Continuing Teaching Certificate	125.00
Continuing Teaching Certificate Reinstatement	50.00
Professional Teaching Certificate	125.00
Vocational Temporary Authorization	75.00
Full Vocational Authorization	125.00
Occupational Education Certificate	125.00
School Psychologist Certificate	125.00
School Administrator Certificate	125.00

Under the bill, a Teacher-Administrator Preparation and Certification Fund would be established in the Department of Treasury, and administered by the Department of Education solely for the operation of the Teacher-Administrator Preparation and Certification Program. The department would receive and forward all fees collected from the program to the state treasurer for deposit in the fund, which could also receive as revenue money from any other sources appropriated by the legislature. Unexpended money in the fund at the end of the state fiscal year would be carried over to the succeeding fiscal year, and would not revert to the general fund.

The bill would take effect October 1, 1988.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

According to the House Fiscal Agency, the bill would have no effect on state funds, other than that funds would be shifted from the general fund to restricted revenues. (6-20-88)

**ARGUMENTS:**

**For:**

Elementary and secondary school teachers and administrators are the only professionals who are not required to pay fees for certification. In the past, many felt this was justified because salaries in the teaching profession have traditionally been low. Now that salaries in this field are rising, it is only fair that new graduates, who will benefit the most, should pay fees for certification.

**Response:**

Other professionals do pay fees for certification or licensing. The fees proposed in House Bill 5718, however, are excessive when compared with those required in other professions. Public accountants, for example, whose

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starting salaries are higher than teachers', are only required to pay \$35 for an application for certification, and \$75 for an application to write the required examination. Nurses pay \$45 for a license, and \$10 every three years for a renewal. The proposed fees would also be excessive for those who would require endorsements on their certificates. In the case of a typical graduate in the field of special education, for example, the fee would be \$125 for a provisional teaching certificate, and — since most graduates in special education major in two areas, e.g., mentally impaired and learning disabilities — \$50 for each endorsement, for a total of \$225.

### ***Against:***

The projected fee revenue from the Teacher and Administrator Certification Program is estimated at \$1.45 million. In the proposed fiscal year 1988-89 budget for the department, approximately \$1.48 million is appropriated for the Teacher Preparation and Certification Services division. From this total, \$300,000 is allocated to the new Teacher Competency Test Validation Program. Since the budget bill also requires the department to provide one full-time equated classified position to "handle the professional personnel register and other matters," from this allocation, it is obvious that the department won't have the income to provide staffing for the new certification program.

### ***POSITIONS:***

The Department of Education supports the bill. (6-17-88)

The Michigan Education Association supports the bill. (6-8-88)

The Michigan Association of School Administrators supports the bill. (6-17-88)

The Michigan Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, supports the bill. (6-20-88)

The Michigan Federation of School Administrators opposes the bill. (6-17-88)

The Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association has no position on the bill. (6-17-88)

The Detroit Board of Education has no position on the bill. (6-20-88)

The Michigan Association of School Boards does not oppose the bill. (6-20-88)

The President's Council of State Colleges and Universities has no position on the bill, but wishes to express concern about the high rate of fees the bill proposes to charge individuals. (6-20-88)