

**Testimony SB 2070**  
**House Education Committee**  
**March 1, 2023; 10:00 A.M.**  
**Education Standards and Practice Board**  
**Mari Riehl**

Good afternoon, Chairman Heinert, and members of the Senate Education Committee. My name is Mari Riehl, and I am the Assistant Director of the Education Standards and Practices Board. I am here today to testify our board's support of SB 2070 and to provide information about the permit bill which became law during the 66<sup>th</sup> legislative session (HB 1531). Most of the language in SB 2070 is the same, and the bill allows individuals without a 4-year degree, who have expertise in certain content areas, excluding the areas on page 1, line 21, to be the teacher of record per district request showing individuals have the qualifications on page 2, lines 1-6. The intent of the original bill was to provide relief for the teacher shortage in non-core areas until July 2023, and during that time to collect feedback on the bill's success, impact on the teacher shortage, and its ability to motivate some individuals to enter the field of teaching as a regularly trained teacher. The original bill has been in effect for 4 years. This year there have been more permits issued to new candidates than year two and three combined.

Attached to this testimony is a list of individuals who have received a permit and it is evident there are a variety of content areas represented. Students were able to have classes they may not otherwise been able to, given a district's inability to find a teacher. A total of 46 positions have been filled because of this opportunity.

The following information details the outcomes of permit holders during the first three years of the original bill:

1. 35% of year 1, 2, and 3 individuals are still on a permit license
2. 24% of permit holders have become licensed regularly

3. 24% are no longer licensed
4. 10% moved to a sub license to continue involvement in schools but could no longer hold a permit.
5. 7% of individuals ran out of time, having used the 3-year allowed by law

Qualitative comments gathered the past 4 years have provided information on the strengths of those with a permit including: knowledge of the content, positive relationships with students, ability to bring the outside world into the classroom, experience in their field, excellent work ethic, internal motivation, they are members of the community members where they now teach, and some were previously a paraprofessional in the building. Reported challenges include: classroom management, managing time within a class period, and lesson planning. For this reason, page 2 on line 5 requires individuals with a permit to enroll in the Teacher Support System first year teacher mentoring program to receive support in needed areas.

Survey responses collected in March 2022 provided evidence administrators who employed individuals with a permit recommend continuation of this bill in some format to allow a permit as a solution to the shortage. Section 6 of SB 2070 states individuals who are not enrolled in a teacher education program have a maximum of 3 years on a permit; those who enroll in a teacher education program can remain on a permit up to seven years to complete their teacher education degree.

The ESPB board supports HB 2070 and the changes proposed are those developed by a subcommittee of our board, as well as amendment by the Senate Education Committee. This concludes my testimony, and I will gladly answer any questions.