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TEACHER EXCHANGE: ELIGIBILITY

House Bill 4774 as introduced First Analysis (5-20-97)

Sponsor: Rep. Beverly Bodem
Committee: Education

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

The Revised School Code permits a school board to pay the salary of a qualified teacher who has taught in the district for three or more years while the teacher is teaching in another state or country as part of a teacher exchange program. The teacher on exchange duty is entitled to the same compensation, rights, and privileges, including retirement benefits, as though he or she were continuously performing normal teaching duties in the district. This provision has the effect of excluding from exchange programs a teacher who has many of years of experience overall but is new to the district in which he or she is currently teaching. Such a case has arisen, and legislation has been introduced to deal with it (and future cases).

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would amend the Revised School Code to remove the requirement that a teacher must have taught three or more years with a school district before being able to receive his or her salary (and other employee rights and benefits) while participating in a teacher exchange program in another state or country.

MCL 380.1234

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

According to the House Fiscal Agency, the bill has no fiscal implications for the state. However, the agency notes that by extending eligibility for the teacher exchange program to teachers with any length of experience, local costs could increase if the total number of teachers participating increased. (5-19-97)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

Under the bill, a school board could allow a teacher with fewer than three years of experience in the district to participate in a teacher exchange program without loss of salary and other employee rights, privileges, and benefits. The case that gives rise to the bill is said to involve an experienced teacher relatively new to the current district. The law requires three or more years

in the district; the bill would eliminate that requirement. Participation in such programs would be up to the local school district.

POSITIONS:

Among those indicating support for the bill to the House Education Committee were: The Michigan Association of School Boards; the Michigan Association of School Administrators; the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals; the Michigan Federation of Teachers and School Related Personnel; and the Michigan Education Association. (5-14-97)

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Analyst: C. Couch

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.