



Senate Fiscal Agency
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536



Telephone: (517) 373-5383
Fax: (517) 373-1986

Senate Bill 744 (as introduced 3-6-24)
Sponsor: Senator Kristen McDonald Rivet
Committee: Education

Date Completed: 3-11-24

CONTENT

The bill would amend certain provisions concerning teacher probationary periods under the teachers' tenure Act.

Generally, the Act prescribes a probationary period for the first five full years of a teacher's employment. To complete a probationary period, a teacher must receive a performance evaluation rating of effective or highly effective on the teacher's three most recent annual performance evaluations within this five-year period.

Beginning July 1, 2024, the Act allows a teacher to complete the teacher's probationary period within four years if the teacher receives the following ratings on three consecutive year-end performance evaluations:

- Before July 1, 2024, highly effective.
- After July 1, 2024, effective.¹

The bill would amend these provisions to allow a teacher who received an *effective* rating before July 1, 2024, to count that rating towards the teacher's required three positive year-end performance evaluations. Additionally, the bill specifies that these ratings would not have to be consecutive and could include the year-end performance evaluation in the final year of the probationary period.

MCL 38.83b

Legislative Analyst: Abby Schneider

FISCAL IMPACT

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

Fiscal Analyst: Ryan Bergan
Cory Savino, PhD

¹ Before July 1, 2024, school districts, intermediate school districts, and public school academies must use the following categories to rate teacher performance: highly effective, effective, minimally effective, and ineffective. Public Act 224 of 2023 amended the teacher performance evaluation system to provide that, beginning July 1, 2024, teachers must be rated using the following categories: effective, developing, and needing support.

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