

HOUSE BILL REPORT

EHB 1139

As Passed Legislature

Title: An act relating to continuing education credit requirements.

Brief Description: Authorizing continuing education credit for teachers for certain out-of-state courses.

Sponsor(s): Representatives Peery, H. Myers, Brough, Morris, Winsley, Pruitt, Cooper, Jones, Rayburn, Basich, Betrozoff, Miller and G. Fisher.

Brief History:

Reported by House Committee on:
Education, February 14, 1991, DPA;
Passed House, March 12, 1991, 98-0;
Amended by Senate;
House concurred;
Passed Legislature, 96-0.

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION**

Majority Report: *Do pass as amended.* Signed by 18 members: Representatives Peery, Chair; G. Fisher, Vice Chair; Brough, Ranking Minority Member; Vance, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Betrozoff; Broback; Brumsickle; Dorn; Holland; P. Johnson; Jones; Neher; Orr; Phillips; Rasmussen; Roland; H. Sommers; and Valle.

Staff: Bob Butts (786-7111).

Background: In 1986, the State Board of Education approved regulations that, with several minor exceptions, require individuals who obtain continuing certificates after August 1987 to complete 150 credit hours of continuing education every five years. The requirement applies to all certificated personnel, including teachers, principals, and educational staff associates (e.g. school nurses, psychologists, occupational therapists).

Continuing education credit may only be granted by entities approved by the State Board of Education. Some certificated personnel, such as school nurses, speech therapists and psychologists, have a difficult time finding courses that are professionally relevant that have been approved.

Summary of Bill: The State Board of Education rules for continuing education shall provide that educational staff associates may use credits or clock hours that satisfy the continuing education requirements for their state professional licenses, if any, to fulfill the continuing education requirements established by the State Board of Education.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: None.

Testimony Against: It is important that the State Board be able to approve continuing education credit courses to prevent abuse. In response to similar legislation last year, the State Board of Education has made it easier for organizations to apply for and receive approvals for courses.

Witnesses: Ted Andrews and Marcia Costello, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.