



SENATE MINORITY LEADER **BRIAN W. JONES**

Senate Bill 811 – Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact

SUMMARY

SB 811 will authorize California to be a founding member of the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact (ITMC). The ITMC will allow teachers to use an eligible license held in a compact member state to be granted an equivalent license in any other compact member state, lowering barriers to teacher mobility, and bringing more teachers to California.

BACKGROUND

California currently requires all teachers coming from out of state to apply for a new license. For military families and spouses who are frequently called upon to relocate on short notice, this can become a particularly onerous burden. Military spouses' teaching salaries often comprise the bulk of a military household's income, making the lost time in being able to practice their profession following relocation a profound difficulty on a military family.

PROBLEM

California is facing a teacher shortage. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated this statewide issue. Two-thirds of California schools have reported challenges filling vacant teaching positions. The state's eight largest school districts reported an average vacancy rate of 10% entering the 2022-23 school year. Research from the 2020-21 school year found that 17% of K-12 classes were currently being taught by teachers who were not yet credentialed to teach that course.

The state has an immediate need to expedite the teacher credentialing process while maintaining the integrity of the workforce. Qualified teachers educated and credentialed by other states that adhere to California's standards face significant barriers when trying to move into a teaching role in California. While the state has made strides to improve statewide educator recruitment and retention rates, continued backlogs and delays in the credentialing process create burdens for teachers-in-training while exacerbating the state's teacher shortage.

SOLUTION

SB 811 would add California to the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact. The ITMC will be governed by an intergovernmental agency known as the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact Commission. The Commission will determine which member states' teaching licenses are eligible for reciprocity. Teachers moving from one compact member state to another will be granted the closest equivalent eligible license to the one currently held in the member state they are moving from.

Joining the compact will allow California to be a founding member, giving them a leading voice in establishing the rules of the Commission and encouraging other states to follow in creating a more streamlined and equitable credential process for all teachers seeking to move throughout the United States.

By granting the Commission the power to handle all out-of-state applicants, the compact will relieve some administrative burden from the California Teacher Commission.

The ITMC will be a critical tool for teachers moving to our state and benefit both the teaching profession and California's students. A streamlined licensure process will make it easier for teachers to move throughout the country and bring more teachers to California.

CONTACT

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