

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2071

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 21, 2010

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 2071 with committee amendments.

Under a current State Board of Education regulation, an individual holding a certificate of eligibility or a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing may serve as a substitute teacher in his authorized subject area for a maximum of 60 school days in the same position in one school district. As amended, this bill provides that a vacant teaching position cannot be filled in any school year by one or more individuals employed as substitute teachers and holding a certificate of eligibility or a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing issued by the State Board of Examiners and working in an area authorized by their credentials for a total amount of time exceeding 60 school days. However, the bill provides that the executive county superintendent of schools may grant an extension upon written application from the school district demonstrating the district's inability to hire an appropriately certified teacher for the vacant position within the original 60-day time limit. The bill further provides that in the event an individual is approved by the executive county superintendent to remain in the position beyond 60 school days, he must be compensated by the school district on a pro-rata basis consistent with the salary provided to a teacher with similar credentials in the employing district.

The bill provides that an individual holding a certificate of eligibility or a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing can serve as a substitute teacher and fill a vacant teaching position outside of his subject area for 20 school days and may serve in that position for an additional 20 school days upon approval from the executive county superintendent. The bill also provides that an individual holding a standard instructional certificate can serve as a substitute teacher and fill a vacant teaching position outside of his subject area for a maximum of 40 school days. These provisions are similar, but not identical, to current State Board of Education regulations.

The committee amended the bill to clarify that the time limits provided are for individuals filling vacant teaching positions as substitute teachers.