Office Memorandum

Date: June 15, 2018

To: Alex Luizzi, Executive Director
Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board

From: Amelia Cruver, Executive Budget Officer
Minnesota Management and Budget


Background

The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) oversees and implements teacher licensing for the state of Minnesota. Legislation from the 2017 session created PELSB by combining the Board of Teaching and the Teacher Licensure Division at the Minnesota Department of Education. Along with the restructuring of state agencies, the legislation included a new tiered licensure system for licensing teachers in Minnesota. This system was created to address problems identified in a report by the Office of the Legislative Auditor to improve the state’s troubled teacher licensure system.

The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board proposes revising Minnesota Rules relating to issuance and renewal of teacher licenses, tiered licensure and licensure via portfolio to align rules with statute passed in the 2017 session and to clarify process and procedures for stakeholders as the new tiered licensure system is launched on July 1st 2018.

Evaluation

On behalf of the Commissioner of MMB, I have reviewed the proposed rules and related Statement of Need and Reasonableness (SONAR) for any potential costs and benefits to local units of government. My evaluation is summarized below:

1. This review discusses the impact of the proposed rules relative to the current law, passed in the 2017 session. A fiscal note prepared by MMB and the impacted agencies on similar language to the article passed into law, provides an analysis of the costs imposed by the new law. Search for the fiscal note on House File 140, fourth engrossment.

2. All teachers renewing their licenses will undergo background checks under the proposed rules. Current law requires a background check only on initial licensure. Requesting a background check requires a fee of $32 which would be incurred by the teacher renewing their license. Teachers are required to renew their license every two to four years depending on licensure type.
Based on the information provided to me by the Professional Educators Licensure and Standards Board, I believe that the proposed rule revisions will have minimal fiscal impact on local units of government, and that the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board has adequately considered local government costs.

cc: Britta Reitan, Budget Director