

SB 66 TESTIMONY

Senator Pat Pettey

Proponent

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 66. This bill helps relieve the burden of additional testing and administrative fees while still ensuring States have power to ensure the competency of teachers.

The Interstate Teaching Mobility Compact (ITMC) has many benefits for Kansas:

1. **It preserves the existing state-based licensure system;**
2. **It creates an alternative path to licensure for teachers relocating to a compact state;**
 - a. To be eligible, a license must require a bachelor's degree and completion of a *state-approved program* for teacher licensure such as teacher preparation program at a college or university. Further, for a license to be eligible under the compact their license must *be unencumbered* (i.e., not restricted, probationary, provisional, substitute or temporary.)

How does it work?

- Qualified licensee requests a Kansas license based on a license currently held from another state
 - Licensee undergoes KSDE background check
 - KSDE determines most appropriate, equivalent license to issue.
 - Licensee not required to complete state-specific requirements until renewal
3. **It improves communication between states:**
 - a. Supports information sharing between compact member states
 - b. Ensures that all adverse actions and disciplines sanctions are reported regularly to the Commission and shared with member states;
 - c. Provides a venue for joint problem solving and discussion.
 4. **Requires criminal background checks;**
 5. **Improves licensure portability for teachers;**
 6. **Improves mobility for military spouses.**

These are the basic items achieved through the Compact:

- Creates an agreed-upon regulatory framework for teacher reciprocity.
- Speeds up the application process for moving licensees.
- Reduces time and resources spent by licensing agencies.
- Adds one more tool in the State Board of Education Licensure tool box.

I ask that Senate Education vote SB 66 favorable for passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.