

Date: 02/04/2009

Committee: House Education/House Labor
& Public Employment

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Patricia Hamamoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 1690 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Clarifies that teachers hired on an emergency hire basis are required to demonstrate active pursuit of a teacher's license in each year of their employment as teachers over a maximum of four years.

Department's Position: The Department of Education (DOE) supports H.B. 1690, which allows teachers hired prior to July 1, 2008 to be employed on an emergency basis for no more than four years. The Department recommends that Section 302A-804, 3D be revised to read as follows:

"Notwithstanding subparagraph (3) (C), unlicensed individuals who have been hired on an emergency basis after June 30, 1997, but prior to July 1, 2008 may be employed on an emergency basis for no more than four years. During this time, the individual shall demonstrate active pursuit of licensing in each year of employment."

These revisions would be consistent with the provisions in Senate Bill 1250 Section (3) (D), which allows for individuals hired after July 1, 2008 to be employed on an emergency basis for no more than four years. The addition of the date June 30, 1997 would clarify that individuals hired prior to 1997 would not need to demonstrate active pursuit of a license since licensing laws were not in effect until 1997.

These changes would allow more teachers to qualify for employment with the Department, thus helping the Department to fill vacancies in shortage areas.