



## Request for City Council Committee Action from the Department of Intergovernmental Relations

Date: January 24, 2011

To: Council Member Glidden, IGR Sub-Committee Chair

**Subject: 2011 Legislative Agenda**

**Recommendation: Amend the City Livability section of the 2011 Legislative Agenda by adding as the last item to the support items the following language: "the enactment of legislation to provide for alternative teacher licensure programs that will increase the supply of diverse educators who can obtain a standard teaching license.**

Prepared and Approved by: Gene Ranieri, Director, IGR Dept. \_\_\_\_\_

Presenters in Committee: IGR Staff

**Supporting Information:** Two bills related to alternative teacher licensure have been introduced in the 2011 Legislature. Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL-St.Paul) introduced HF 3 while Rep. Pat Garafalo (R – Apple Valley) introduced HF 63. Both bills have been in the Education Reform Committee and amended. HF 63 was passed out of committee and has been referred to the Education Finance Committee. HF 3 has been laid over in the Education Reform Committee Sen. Gen Olson (R- Miinnetrista) has authored the companion (SF 43) to HF 63 in the Senate. SF 63 has been scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Education Committee for Monday January 24. There is no companion to HF 3.

HF 63/SF 43 would authorize the Board of Teaching to approve qualified teacher preparation programs that would result in a two-year limited-term license and to prepare for acquiring a standard license.

The bills outline entities eligible to participate in the program. Among them are:

- school districts or charter schools that form a partnership with a college or university that has a board approved alternative teacher preparation program.
- School district or charter school that forms a partnership with a non-profit corporation for an education purpose that has aboard approved teacher education program. Teach for America would be an example of a potential qualifying non-profit group.
- A board approved teacher preparation program within a district.

To participate in a board approved program, a candidate must:

- have a bachelor's degree

- pass the reading, writing and mathematics skills examination.
- Obtain qualifying scores on board approved content area and pedagogy.

An alternative teacher preparation program must include a minimum of 200 hour instructional phase that provides intensive preparation before a teacher candidate can be in the classroom. The program must also include assessment, supervision and evaluation of teacher candidates and ongoing learning opportunities and professional staff development and mentoring.

The bill provides for a procedure and requirements to license teachers who successfully completed a alternative teacher program in another state. Among the requirements is that the applicant must complete two years of classroom teaching before applying for a license.

HF 3 is similar to HF 63 but it did not require a partnership between a school district and a university or non-profit. HF 3 did require that the school district board wanting to participate in an alternative teaching licensure program must have a written agreement signed by the school board and the teachers' local representative and in the case of a charter school a written agreement of its licensed staff. The bill also required that a candidate also have a bachelor's degree and a 3.0 grade point average.