

Item 9:

Designation of Temporary Suspension Committee

DISCUSSION AND ACTION

SUMMARY: This item provides the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) with an opportunity to designate a five-person committee who will meet to discuss and vote on temporary suspension matters.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Texas Education Code (TEC) §22A.202 and §22A.203 and the SBEC Board Operating Policies and Procedures (BOPP).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately upon Board Chair designation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Senate Bill 571, effective immediately, gives the SBEC the authority to temporarily suspend educator certificates prior to a contested case hearing at the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) based on the continuing and imminent threat to public welfare or based on the arrest of an educator for an offense outlined in TEC §22A.201(a). These newly created sections of law provide that an educator's certificates will be temporarily suspended based on a majority vote of the Board or of a five-person committee of board members designated by the board. A temporary suspension of the educator's certificate will prevent the educator from working in a school district while the contested case is pending at SOAH. The Board or the committee of the board may hold a meeting by telephone conference call if the board or committee determines that immediate action is required and convening the Board or committee at one location would be inconvenient for a member of the board or committee. The Board will consider rulemaking related to temporary suspensions at a future Board meeting.

S.B. 571 creates the need for the Board to appoint this five-person committee who will meet and vote on temporary suspensions of educator certificates.

Designation of Committee and Presiding Officer:

- **Committee.** The Board Chair will designate a five-person committee.
- **Presiding Officer.** The Board Chair will designate a presiding officer of the committee who will certify that a quorum of the committee is present in order to conduct official business of the committee.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

- Designate a five-person committee and presiding officer to meet and vote on temporary suspensions.

Staff Member Responsible:

Sarah Wolfe, Director, EPCE Law and Policy
Kameryn McCain, Director, EPCE Policy and Planning