

One Hundred Third Legislature - First Session - 2013

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB539

Chairperson: Senator Kate Sullivan

Committee: Education

Date of Hearing: February 05, 2013

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

This bill is clear and straightforward:

“No school board or board of education shall require that any candidate for superintendent of schools have teaching experience. Any rule, or regulation adopted by the State Board of Education purporting to authorize school boards or boards of education to include such a requirement in any contract of employment is null and void.”

The bill does not nullify or modify any other requirements or qualifications.

The current requirement of two years' teaching experience cannot be shown to enhance or to be a reliable indicator of a candidate's ability to perform the duties of a superintendent, nor can the absence of such experience be shown to undercut such ability.

Removal of the mandate will expand significantly the pool of potential candidates to include persons of a wider variety of backgrounds, experience and demonstrable capability to perform, competently, the duties of a superintendent.

The two main arguments against this proposal seem to be:

(1) “It has always been done this way.”

(2) “It has never been done that way.”

Neither argument is persuasive.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Ernie Chambers

