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HB0118: Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact Informational Testimony

House of Delegates Ways and Means Committee

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Thank you to Chair Atterbeary and the members of this committee for holding this hearing on HB0118 to enact the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact. My name is Adam Diersing, Senior Policy Analyst for the Council of State Governments and primary staff member covering the ITMC development and enactment process. I am writing to provide informational testimony to this committee on the ITMC. This compact was developed as part of a cooperative agreement between the Department of Defense and The Council of State Governments, in partnership with the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification.

The development of this model legislation began in September of 2021 with the assembly of a Technical Assistance group comprised of legislators, state education department officials, members of professional associations, licensed teachers, and other education stakeholders. The group met over the course of several months to determine the needs of the profession and the model needed for teacher mobility patterns and licensure systems. A separate drafting team transitioned the recommendations and model from the Technical Assistance Group into a full draft of the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact model legislation. After several months of public comment and stakeholder review, the final draft of the model legislation was released in November 2022.

The ITMC utilizes a different model than other interstate occupational licensure compacts. Compact Member states submit licenses that are eligible for the compact and meet a set of criteria outlined in the legislation. To be eligible, a license must require a bachelor's degree and completion of a state-approved program for teacher licensure like a teacher preparation program at a college or university. Further, for a license to be eligible under the compact it must be unencumbered (i.e., not restricted, probationary, provisional, substitute or temporary.) Teachers holding a compact eligible license can apply for licensure in another member state and receive the closest equivalent license without submitting additional materials, taking state-specific exams, or completing additional coursework.

Currently, 13 states are members of the ITMC and processes to operationalize the compact are being put in place. It is currently expected that member states will be able to begin issuing licenses under the compact in the coming months. More information on the active member states and meetings of the commission is available at teachercompact.org. Maryland is currently a member of 8 interstate licensure compacts.

I am available to answer any questions that may arise in this hearing on the ITMC. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB0118.