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Saylor Bill to Remove Continuing Education Requirement for Retired Teachers Signed into Law Today

HARRISBURG – Legislation authored by Rep. Stan Saylor (R-York) to remove the continuing education requirement for retired teachers was signed into law today. The measure will now allow retired educators to serve as substitute teachers without the need to maintain their active teaching certificates. Retired educators often fill in as substitute teachers when teachers become ill or there is a shortage.

“Teachers have earned both our respect and their retirement through many years of service to Pennsylvania schools,” said Saylor. “Now, they can continue to help educate our children without the burdensome continuing education requirement.”

Saylor’s measure, House Bill 894, amends Section 1205.2 of the Public School Code to waive continuing education requirements for annuitants of the Pennsylvania School Employees’ Retirement System (PSERS). A retired teacher could not, however, return to a permanent full-time position without first completing the continuing education requirement.

Additionally, the legislation requires retired educators, who return to school service during an emergency period exceeding one school year, to fulfill continuing education requirements. This requirement also applies to teachers whose annuity terminates. Under those circumstances, a teacher would have the same amount of time remaining in the compliance period as existed when he or she entered retirement.

The legislation requires the Pennsylvania Department of Education to establish standards requiring school entities to report the employment of annuitants who return to school service during an emergency.

Previously, Section 1205.2 required completion of one of the following every five years in order for teachers to maintain their active teaching certificates:

- Six credits of collegiate study;
- Six credits of continuing credits of continuing professional education courses;
- 180 hours of continuing professional education programs, activities or learning experiences;
- Any combination of collegiate studies, continuing professional education courses, or other programs, activities or learning experiences equivalent to 180 days.

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