

# Representative Rebecca Himschoot

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## HOUSE BILL 230

### OUT-OF-STATE TCHG EXPERIENCE & SALARIES

Version A

“An Act repealing the limit on the number of years of out-of-state school experience that may be substituted for in-state experience in teacher salary scales.”

#### SPONSOR STATEMENT

(Updated 1.17.24)

HB 230, OUT-OF STATE TCHG EXPERIENCE & SALARIES is a single line bill that repeals the existing limit on the number of years of teaching experience gained outside the state that can be used to determine a teacher’s salary. This bill will help address our teacher shortage and bring in more experienced teachers from out-of-state.

Teachers are currently only allowed to count eight years of out-of-state teaching experience, if they have a masters’ degree, and six years of out-of-state teaching experience, if they have bachelors’ degree, for the purpose of determining the correct placement on a district’s salary scale, even if they taught out of state for much longer. Repealing this limit is one of the recommendations from the “2021 Teacher Retention and Recruitment Action Plan,” the plan is a product of the Alaska Governor’s working group on teacher retention and recruitment that was established in 2020.

Districts across Alaska are having an extremely difficult time filling teaching positions. First day teacher vacancies in Alaska have increased from about 155 in 2019 to about 394 in 2022 according to the Department of Education and Early Development and this shortage impacts both urban and rural districts. With the passage of this bill, state statute will no longer inhibit districts from hiring the most experienced out-of-state candidates, and in turn teachers will be fairly compensated for their experience.