

STATE OF KANSAS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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JO ELLA HOYE  
17TH DISTRICT

February 14, 2022

HB 2639 Proponent Testimony

Dear Chair Johnson and members of the House Committee on Insurance and Pensions:

The Kansas State Department of Education recently conducted a survey of Kansas Superintendents, and 97.4% of the Superintendents responded “yes” to the following question: “In general, are you currently experiencing a shortage of appropriately licensed substitutes to fill short-term and long-term positions?”

There is something that we, as state legislators, can do to help address the workforce shortage crisis impacting public employers. We can make temporary changes to the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERs) waiting period as an effort to expand the public workforce.

HB 2639 would decrease the waiting period for individuals retired from a KPERs employer to 30 days with a sunset on June 30, 2023. This bill is not the only option. Please ask questions and work this bill in a manner that best helps public employers, especially our K-12 schools, while meeting the necessary requirements from the Internal Revenue Service.

The pandemic has put a strain on teachers, staff, and students. We must make it a priority to provide relief during this difficult time.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jo Ella Hoye #17". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Representative Jo Ella Hoye