

Bill Summary
2nd Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 553
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Author:	Sen. Pugh
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Bill Analysis

SB 553 amends the powers and duties of the State Board of Education to allow revocation of the teaching certificate of any person who has been convicted, whether upon a verdict or plea of guilty or nolo contendere, or received a suspended sentence or any probationary term for knowingly and willfully failing to report suspected abuse or neglect of a child. It prohibits a teaching certificate from being issued to a person who knowingly and willfully failed to report suspected abuse or neglect of a child. It requires full-time teachers previously employed by a school district who had a criminal history record check completed in the preceding 5 years to submit a letter to a potential employing school district with information regarding whether the teacher was the subject of any allegation of inappropriate behavior with a student.

It requires full-time teachers previously employed by a school district who had a criminal history record check completed in the preceding 5 years who is seeking employment as a substitute teacher to submit the same letter. The bill adds knowing and willful failure to report suspected child abuse or neglect to the list of reasons for which a career teacher may be dismissed or not reemployed. It requires professional development on proper reporting of suspected abuse to include statutory reporting requirements for reporting suspected child abuse or neglect. The measure also requires every school employee to annually sign an attestation acknowledging his or her responsibility to report suspected child abuse or neglect as required by law.

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