

## Dakota Soda

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**From:** Taylor Thrush  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 1, 2020 9:15 AM  
**To:** Dakota Soda  
**Subject:** FW: MDE Statement on HB 4342 (H-3)

**Importance:** High

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**From:** Liethen, Caroline (MDE) <LiethenC@michigan.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 1, 2020 9:03 AM  
**To:** Taylor Thrush <TThrush@house.mi.gov>; Pamela Hornberger <PHornberger@house.mi.gov>; Rep. Brad Paquette (District 78) <BradPaquette@house.mi.gov>  
**Cc:** Mel Koch <MKoch@house.mi.gov>; Philip Kraft <PKraft@house.mi.gov>; Brad Wever <BWever@house.mi.gov>; Evan Ward <EWard@house.mi.gov>; Brad Wever <BWever@house.mi.gov>; Daniel Feinberg <dfeinberg@house.mi.gov>; Rice, Michael (MDE) <RiceM6@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** MDE Statement on HB 4342 (H-3)  
**Importance:** High

Good Morning,

I am writing to express MDE's concerns with a proposed H-3 version of House Bill 4342 in the absence of the long-held, child-protecting requirement that an individual acquire a substitute permit prior to being placed in a classroom.

Currently, all individuals must undergo a background check to be employed at a district or ISD. If an individual commits a crime after undergoing a background check, the local court notifies the Michigan State Police (MSP); MSP notifies the Department of Education (MDE); and MDE notifies the last known employer of the individual. If the individual is new or has recently moved between a district or ISD, they are either not in the statewide Registry of Educational Personnel or the information is dated. In the absence of accurate employment information, MDE must rely on the information provided in the substitute permit application to ensure the crime is reported to the appropriate employer. Without this information, districts and ISDs will not be notified of crimes committed by new employees placed with children in their classrooms.

Acquiring a substitute permit is fast and simple. If a district or ISD is unable to hire a properly certified and endorsed teacher, an individual may be hired under a substitute permit if they have at least 60 college credit hours or an associate degree and have passed a background check. This process may be completed within 24 hours at a nominal cost of \$45. To address the substitute teaching shortage during the pandemic, MDE supports temporarily waiving the 60 college credit hour requirement for existing district or ISD employees if they receive a substitute permit. Adhering to this established process is imperative to ensuring the safety of our children.

No one would want to risk having adults who had committed egregious crimes working directly with our children. Without having a sub certificate or permit, districts would likely never know that one of their employees is dangerous and working with their kids. Without this necessary safeguard of a substitute permit written into the bill, MDE will not support it.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Caroline Liethen  
Legislative Liaison  
Office of Public and Governmental Affairs  
Michigan Department of Education  
Office: 517-241-7017  
Cell: 517-449-1974



LET'S **STAY SAFE** TOGETHER