

Lawmakers clear new teacher rules

The state Board of Education's new teacher certification rule changes cleared the last of three final approval steps last week. They await final adoption by the state board early next month.

The state Legislature's Joint House-Senate Rules Committee approved the changes in teacher certification.

The changes are designed to improve teacher competency and training, according to state Superintendent of Public Instruction Phillip E. Runkel.

RUNKEL SAID the new rule changes, first approved by the state Board of Education last November, are "the most significant set of changes in teacher certification in the last 15 years."

The rule changes would require, effective Sept. 1, 1989, that:

• All teachers in public schools and most private schools need to complete six semester hours of additional work or staff training every five years to keep their teaching cer-

tificate in force.

Teachers are now issued provisional certificates when they graduate from college. They have been certified to teach for life if they complete 18 semester hours of graduate work and three years of successful teaching experience.

• Teachers in middle school (grades 6-8) will be allowed to teach only subjects in which they majored or minored in college.

• Middle school teachers must be trained in human growth and development, in dealing with handicapped, gifted and talented students and those with cultural differences.

• Middle school teachers will also have to complete six hours of instruction in the teaching of reading.

The state Board of Education is expected to stamp final approval on the rule changes at its meeting of Oct. 7-8 now that the rules have been approved by the Joint Rules Committee, as well as the Legislative Services Bureau and Attorney General's Office.

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