**VSBPE**

**Date: 9 March 2022**

**Item:** **Licensure Expiration Extension**

**ITEM:** Shall the VSBPE extend the expiration of all licenses set to expire on 30 June 2022 for three months to 30 September 2022?

**AGENCY RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

That the VSBPE extend the expiration of all licenses set to expire on 30 June 2022 for three months to 30 September 2022.

**BACKGROUND:** By rule, all educator licenses expire on 30 June of the year of their set life. For a variety of reasons outlined below, the office is recommending that the life of all licenses be extended by three months for 2022 only.

**RATIONALE:** As a response to the ongoing pandemic, the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR) recently offered an extension of 60 days to any individual licensed by OPR at their request. Educators currently on a Level I, provisional, or emergency license have been working under pandemic conditions for most or all of the life of that license. This currently school year has be much more challenging than anticipated due to the emergence of COVID variants. In turn, this has impacted their ability to participate in high quality professional learning or complete coursework/portfolios required for permanent licensure. An extension of three months would allow educators time over the summer to complete their professional learning and applications, allowing them to focus more fully on their teaching through the end of the school year.

The office is suggesting that we largely follow the lead of OPR with a couple of important differences.

1. Rather than extend licenses on request only, we would automatically extend the licenses of all educators. This is actually an easier technical implementation. Additionally, it mitigates the risk of educators erroneously believing that they have requested an extension or not understanding that such a request was necessary.
2. Rather than extend licenses by 60 days, the office is recommend extending licenses by three months, to 30 September 2022. This allows educators to focus on getting their 2022/23 school years off to a smooth start, rather than having the additional burden of completing last minute relicensure requirements.