

Legislature denies the State Board of Education necessary funds to operate the K-12 educator licensure office.

First the General Assembly took the unconstitutional action of transferring a major portion of the duties of the State Board of Education to the Governor's office. One of the few duties left with the State Board of Education is educator licensure.

The legislature had raided the licensure fund to the tune of \$10 million to fill a gap elsewhere in the then Department of Education budget. In the most recent round of legislation, the General Assembly refused to appropriate funds necessary to cover the cost of issuing educator licenses, which will necessitate raising the license fees to an exorbitant level. Both the Governor's office and the Senate President suggested that the operation is costing too much. However, the recently adopted capital improvement bill allocated over \$4 million to private schools for facilities--about the same amount of fiscal shortfall needed to issue educator licenses.