

MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA ITEM:

October 2016

**CONSIDERATION TO DISCIPLINE THE LICENSE TO TEACH
OF MICHAEL COTHERN, CASE # HR 16-017**

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

Section 168.071, RSMo

Consent
Item

Action
Item

Report
Item

DEPARTMENT GOAL NO. 3:

Missouri will prepare, develop, and support effective educators.

SUMMARY:

Mo. Rev. Stat. §168.071 authorizes the State Board of Education to discipline certificates of license to teach, which includes the authority to resolve issues by consent agreement or agreed settlement or voluntary surrender of the certificate of license. 5 CSR 20-400.230 provides that the State Board of Education may accept a voluntary surrender or informally settle a case through a consent agreement or agreed settlement.

Michael Cothorn currently holds a certificate of license to teach in the areas of Counselor, grades 7–12 and Social Studies, grades 7–12. Mr. Cothorn also held certificates of license to teach in the areas of Principal, grades K–8; Principal, grades 7–12; and Special Education Administrator, grades K–12, which have expired.

On July 18, 2012, Mr. Cothorn pled guilty to the Misdemeanor, Assault 3rd Degree.

On September 14, 2016, a Settlement Agreement Between the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and Michael Cothorn was received. The parties have agreed that this settlement agreement should be submitted to the State Board of Education for consideration.

PRESENTER:

William R. Thornton, General Counsel, will participate in the presentation and discussion of this agenda item.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department recommends that the State Board of Education accept the agreed settlement and surrender of Mr. Cothorn’s teaching certificates pursuant to its authority under Mo. Rev. Stat. §168.071 (Supp. 2014).