

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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SENATE BILL 219
Education/Higher Education Committee Substitute Adopted 5/1/19
House Committee Substitute Favorable 6/5/19
House Committee Substitute #2 Favorable 6/10/19

Short Title: Modify Teacher Licensing Requirements.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 12, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO MODIFY TEACHER LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS.
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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5 **PART I. MODIFICATIONS TO INITIAL PROFESSIONAL LICENSES**

6 **SECTION 1.1.** G.S. 115C-270.15 reads as rewritten:

7 "**§ 115C-270.15. Examination requirements for initial professional licenses.**

8 (a) Examination Score Requirements. – The State Board of Education shall require an
9 applicant for an initial professional license (IPL) to demonstrate the applicant's academic and
10 professional preparation by achieving a prescribed minimum score on a standard examination
11 appropriate and adequate for that purpose. Elementary education (K-6) and special education
12 general curriculum teachers shall also achieve a prescribed minimum score on subtests or
13 standard examinations specific to teaching reading and mathematics.

14 (b) Establishment of Minimum Scores. – The State Board shall adopt rules that establish
15 the minimum scores for any required standard examinations and other measures necessary to
16 assess the qualifications of professional educators as required under this section. For purposes of
17 this section, the State Board shall not be subject to Article 2A of Chapter 150B of the General
18 Statutes. At least 30 days prior to changing any rule adopted under this section, the State Board
19 shall provide written notice to all recognized educator preparation programs and to all local
20 boards of education. The written notice shall include the proposed revised rule. The State Board
21 of Education shall make any required standard initial professional licensure exam rigorous and
22 raise the prescribed minimum score as necessary to ensure that each applicant has received
23 high-quality academic and professional preparation to teach effectively.

24 (c) Time Line for Completion of Examinations. – The State Board of Education shall
25 permit an applicant to fulfill any such ~~testing-examination~~ requirement before or during the
26 ~~applicant's second year of teaching, third year of the IPL,~~ provided the applicant took the
27 examination at least once during the first year of ~~teaching the license.~~

28 (d) Monitoring Compliance. – For teachers with an IPL, the State Board shall direct the
29 Department of Public Instruction to monitor the teachers' compliance with this section throughout
30 the duration of the IPL. In the event a teacher is not in compliance with any of the requirements
31 of this section, the Department shall notify the teacher.

32 (e) Conversion to Continuing Professional License. – The State Board shall not convert
33 an IPL to a continuing professional license for a teacher who has not fulfilled the examination
34 requirements of this section."



1 **SECTION 1.2.** G.S. 115C-270.20(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to
2 read:

3 "(4a) Limited license. – A three-year nonrenewable license issued to an individual
4 who meets the requirements of this subdivision. A limited license shall only
5 be requested by the local board of education currently employing the
6 individual and shall be used for continued employment only in that local
7 school administrative unit. To receive a limited license, the following
8 requirements shall be met:

9 a. The individual was issued an IPL but did not qualify for a CPL under
10 G.S. 115C-270.15(e).

11 b. The local board of education submits to the State Board an affidavit
12 stating that the teacher is an effective teacher and will be encouraged
13 to continue to pursue a CPL. The affidavit shall be signed by both the
14 principal and superintendent for the school to which the teacher is
15 currently assigned."

16 **SECTION 1.3.** Elementary education (K-6) or special education general curriculum
17 teachers with an initial professional license that is set to expire June 30, 2019, due to the failure
18 to fulfill the licensure examination requirements pursuant to G.S. 115C-270.15, shall be granted
19 an extension until June 30, 2020.

20 **SECTION 1.4.** The State Board shall comply with G.S. 115C-270.15(d), as enacted
21 by this act, beginning with applicants for teacher licensure on or after July 1, 2019.

22 **PART II. MODIFICATIONS TO OUT-OF-STATE LICENSE APPLICANTS**

23 **SECTION 2.1.** G.S. 115C-270.20(a) reads as rewritten:

24 "(a) Teacher Licenses. – The State Board shall adopt rules for the issuance of the following
25 classes of teacher licenses, including required levels of preparation for each classification:

26 ...
27 (7) Transitional license or TL. – A three-year nonrenewable license issued to an
28 individual who holds current teacher licensure in another state that is in good
29 standing. A transitional license shall only be requested by a local board of
30 education. The individual may begin the application process to meet the
31 requirements for a continuing professional license as an out-of-state applicant
32 while holding the transitional license. Individuals issued transitional licenses
33 shall not be required to demonstrate preparation through achieving a
34 prescribed minimum score on a standardized examination.

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36 **SECTION 2.2.** G.S. 115C-270.25 reads as rewritten:

37 "**§ 115C-270.25. Out-of-state license applicants.**

38 Initial applications for a continuing professional license from an individual with an
39 out-of-state teacher's license shall require the applicant to provide evidence of that teacher's
40 effectiveness, when available, as measured by the evaluation system used in that applicant's state
41 of current licensure at the time of application, including any growth measures included in that
42 evaluation system. ~~Applications that include the evidence of that educator's effectiveness shall~~
43 ~~be prioritized for review over initial applications from applicants with out-of-state licenses that~~
44 ~~do not include that information.~~ An individual who does not include evidence of that teacher's
45 effectiveness with the initial application shall only be eligible for ~~an IPL.~~ a TL until the teacher
46 has completed three years of licensed teaching in North Carolina."

47 **SECTION 2.3.** G.S. 115C-302.1 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

48 "(b3) Pay for Teachers with a Transitional License. – Notwithstanding any other provision
49 of law, a local board of education that employs a teacher who is licensed with a three-year
50 transitional license pursuant to G.S. 115C-270.20(a)(7) shall determine experience credit for that
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1 teacher for the purposes of paying the teacher with State-allotted funds in accordance with the
2 State salary schedule for teachers during the first year of the license. Notwithstanding subsection
3 (f) of this section, the local board of education and the teacher shall not be responsible for the
4 repayment of any overpayment of State funds due to misapplication of experience credit for the
5 State salary schedule when the determination of experience credit was done in good faith based
6 on the teacher's prior employment record and the guidelines established by the State Board of
7 Education for awarding experience credit. A teacher paid in accordance with this subsection shall
8 not be entitled to the same pay on the State salary schedule for teachers for subsequent school
9 years after the State Board determines the appropriate experience credit for that teacher."

10 **SECTION 2.4.** G.S. 93B-15.1(i) reads as rewritten:

11 "(i) For the purposes of this section, the State Board of Education shall be considered an
12 occupational licensing board when issuing teacher licenses under Article 17E of Subchapter V
13 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes. In addition to the provisions for licensure provided by
14 this section, a local board of education may request a three-year transitional license for a military
15 spouse who holds a current teaching license in another jurisdiction pursuant to
16 G.S. 115C-270.20(a)(7)."

17 18 **PART III. MODIFICATIONS TO LIFETIME TEACHING LICENSES**

19 **SECTION 3.1.** G.S. 115C-270.20(a)(4) reads as rewritten:

20 "(4) Lifetime license. – A license issued to a teacher after ~~50~~30 or more years of
21 teaching as a licensed teacher that requires no renewal. For the purposes of
22 this subdivision, a teacher shall be determined to have completed 30 or more
23 years of teaching as a licensed teacher when the teacher holds a current North
24 Carolina teaching license and has completed 30 or more years of creditable
25 service with the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System."

26 **SECTION 3.2.** G.S. 115C-270.20(a)(6) is repealed.

27 **SECTION 3.3.** G.S. 115C-270.30(b)(3) is repealed.

28 29 **PART IV. EMERGENCY RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY**

30 **SECTION 4.** As soon as practicable, and no more than 10 calendar days from the
31 effective date of this act, the State Board of Education shall adopt emergency rules for the
32 implementation of this act in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.1A. This section does not require
33 any rule making if not otherwise required by law.

34 35 **PART V. EFFECTIVE DATE**

36 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law and, except as otherwise
37 provided in this act, applies beginning with applications for teacher licensure submitted on or
38 after the eighteenth day following the effective date of this act.