

Subject Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board

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Overview

This bill is the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board's ("PELSB" or "the board") bill. It defines terms, modifies the board composition, modifies licensing requirements, requires PELSB to adopt and revise rules, and modifies how teacher preparation program providers are approved.

Summary

Section	Description
1	License required. Requires a teacher to hold a license or permission aligned to the content area and scope of the teacher's assignment to provide instruction in a public school or charter school.
2	Teacher. Amends definition of "teacher" for purposes of teacher licensure statutes.
3	Field. Adds "licensure area" to definition of "field."
4	Shortage area. Amends definition of "shortage area" by referencing the percentage of Indigenous teachers and teachers of color in the region, and the percentage of students in kindergarten through grade 12 who are Indigenous or of color.
5	Teacher preparation program. Amends definition of "teacher preparation program" by striking language on entities that can provide teacher preparation programs.

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6	Teacher preparation program provider. States that teacher preparation program providers include postsecondary institutions and alternative teacher preparation program providers.
7	District. Defines a “district” as a public school district or charter school.
8	Appointment of members. [PELSB membership] Increases the number of PELSB members from 11 to 13. Prohibits a member from serving more than two consecutive terms.
9	Eligibility; board composition. [PELSB membership] Increases the number of teachers on the board from six to eight, and modifies the teacher member qualifications. Eliminates board position for a teacher from a teacher preparation program, and adds three teachers in licensure areas that represent current or emerging trends in education and an educator currently teaching in a Minnesota-approved teacher preparation program. Clarifies qualifications for superintendent and principal positions on the board.
10	Administration. [PELSB membership] Eliminates language relating to PELSB offices.
11	Licensing. [Duties] Requires PELSB to approve teacher preparation providers seeking to prepare candidates for teacher licensure in Minnesota.
12	Register of persons licensed. [Duties] Amends requirements for register of licensed teachers.
13	PELSB must adopt and revise rules. [Duties] Require PELSB to revise rules, and adds sections that require rulemaking. Strikes requirement that PELSB adopt rules relating to grade levels a licensed teacher may teach.
15	Permissions. [Duties] Eliminates annual review requirement for permission for alternative education program teacher to teach in other content areas.
16	Teacher and administrator preparation and performance data; report. Changes date that PELSB must post report on teacher preparation programs from June to July. Modifies required summary data program providers must include.

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17	<p>Teacher preparation program reporting.</p> <p>Clarifies reporting requirement on number of candidates who have not passed a content or pedagogy exam, and modifies requirement to disaggregate data by eligibility for financial aid.</p>
18	<p>Teacher preparation providers.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Purpose. States that PELSB must approve teacher preparation providers and programs that are a means to acquire a Tier 2 license and prepare for acquiring a Tier 3 license in order to provide alternative pathways toward licensure outside of the traditional means, improve ethnic and cultural diversity in the classroom, and close the achievement gap.</p> <p>Subd. 2. Rules. Requires PELSB to adopt and revise rules to approve teacher preparation programs.</p> <p>Subd. 3. Eligibility. Allows the following organizations to apply to be a teacher preparation provider: Minnesota institutions of higher education, school districts, charter schools, and nonprofit corporations organized under chapter 317A for an education-related purpose.</p> <p>Subd. 4. Requirements for provider approval. Requires an entity to be approved as a provider before being approved to provide programs toward licensure. Lists requirements for provider approval.</p> <p>Subd. 5. Program approval. Requires PELSB to adopt and revise criteria for program approval in rule. Allows PELSB to suspend or revoke approval of provider or program that does not meet requirements in rule.</p> <p>Subd. 6. Specialized credentials. Allows PELSB to adopt and revise rules creating flexible, specialized teaching licenses, credentials, and other endorsement forms.</p> <p>Subd. 7. Teacher educators. Requires PELSB to adopt and revise rules requiring teacher educators to work with teachers in schools to obtain periodic exposure to teaching environments. Requires PELSB to adopt and revise rules for the qualifications of teacher educators, and allows board to use nontraditional criteria to determine qualifications of teacher educators.</p> <p>Subd. 8. Student teaching program. Allows a teacher preparation program to provide a year-long student teaching program that offers clinical opportunities, academic coursework, and in-depth student teaching experiences.</p>

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	Subd. 9. Reports. Requires PELSB to report annually to the legislature on the performance of teacher candidates, and to submit a biennial report on alternative teacher preparation providers.
19	Teachers. Makes technical change to definition of teachers, and states that this definition does not apply to sections 122A.05 to 122A.093, which relate to PELSB.
20	Qualified teacher defined. Modifies definition of a “qualified teacher” by allowing a teacher to be qualified by holding either a license or a permission.
21	Permission to substitute teach. [Board to issue licenses] Adds language requiring PELSB to issue licenses to substitute teach. Allows PELSB to issue a short-call substitute teaching license to an applicant who is enrolled in and making satisfactory progress in a non-Minnesota teacher program. Replaces reference to continuing education clock hours with renewal requirements.
22	Background studies. [Board to issue licenses] Modifies background studies requirements by requiring PELSB and the Board of School Administration (BOSA) to initiate rather than obtain a background study, changing provision on obtaining background checks through the Department of Human Services (DHS) from requirement to permission, and adding BOSA to DHS provision.
23	Licensure via portfolio. [Board to issue licenses] Limits licensure via portfolio to Tier 3 license or to add a licensure field to a Tier 3 or Tier 4 license. Changes portfolio review timeline.
24	Application requirements. [Tier 1 license] Requires application for Tier 1 license to be submitted jointly by applicant and district, and for application fee to be paid for by the district or applicant.
25	Professional requirements. [Tier 1 license] Modifies exemption from bachelor’s degree requirement for Tier 1 license by replacing reference to career and technical education (CTE) or career pathway course of study to specific exemption under state statute or rule.
26	Exemptions from a bachelor’s degree. [Tier 1 license] Establishes exemptions for bachelor’s degree requirement for Tier 1 license for applicants to teach CTE courses, world languages and culture, and art; and applicants

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	enrolled in a state-approved teacher preparation program classified as a residency model, where the model leads to a bachelor's degree.
	Requires PELSB to adopt and revise rules regarding the qualifications and determinations for applicants exempt from paragraph (a).
27	Term of license and renewal. [Tier 1 license] Eliminates provision allowing board to submit written comments to a district or charter school that requested a Tier 1 license renewal. Eliminates requirement that Tier 1 teacher take a content examination to renew license. Requires district to demonstrate professional development opportunities and other supports were provided to a Tier 1 teacher to move to a higher tier. Eliminates unlimited renewals for CTE teachers and teachers that fill shortage areas.
28	Application. [Tier 1 license] Requires PELSB to review applications, and allows PELSB to begin reviewing applications before July 1. Eliminates requirement that PELSB make a decision on application within 30 days.
29	Mentorship and evaluation. [Tier 1 license] Replaces requirement that Tier 1 teacher participate in employing district's mentorship program and professional development with requirement that district provide Tier 1 teacher mentorship aligned to board-adopted criteria and professional development opportunities.
30, 31	Requirements; Exemptions from a bachelor's degree. [Tier 2 license] Modifies requirements for a Tier 2 license. Current law requires an applicant to have a bachelor's degree or to teach CTE, certain experience; and be enrolled in a Minnesota-approved teacher preparation program, have a master's degree, or meet two of five requirements (advanced coursework, field-specific training, two years of teaching experience, passing scores on pedagogy and content exams, and complete a state-approved teacher preparation program). These sections allow an applicant who has enrolled in a teacher preparation program approved by Minnesota or any other state to obtain a Tier 2 license without the advanced coursework, field-specific training, teaching experience, or passing scores on pedagogy and content exams. These sections retain the bachelor's degree exemption for CTE teachers, and expand the exemption for the following teachers: a teacher of world languages and culture who is a native speaker of the language, and an art teacher with five years of relevant work experience.

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	Requires PELSB to adopt and revise rules regarding the qualifications and determinations for applicants exempt from paragraph (a).
32	Term of license and renewal. [Tier 2 license] Limits renewal of Tier 2 license to two rather than three. Requires PELSB to adopt rules establishing good cause justifications for additional renewals. Allows a Tier 2 license in CTE to be renewed unlimited times. Requires a district to offer professional development opportunities and other supports to a Tier 2 teacher to have licensed renewed, and requires a Tier 2 teacher to participate in cultural competency training and mental illness training for all renewals.
33	Application. [Tier 2 license] Requires PELSB to review applications, and allows PELSB to begin reviewing applications before July 1. Eliminates requirement that PELSB make a decision on application within 30 days.
34	Mentorship and evaluation. [Tier 2 license] Replaces requirement that Tier 2 teacher participate in employing district's mentorship program and professional development with requirement that district provide Tier 2 teacher mentorship aligned to board-adopted criteria and professional development opportunities.
35	Requirements. [Tier 3 license] Eliminates licensure exams as requirement for Tier 3 license. Broadens exemption from bachelor's degree to include a teacher teaching any course exempt by statute or rule.
36	Coursework. [Tier 3 license] Eliminates option for candidate to meet coursework requirements with three years of teaching experience under a Tier 2 license and evidence of summative evaluations that did not place the teacher on an improvement process.
37	Exemptions from a bachelor's degree. [Tier 3 license] Expands exemption from bachelor's degree for the following teachers: a teacher of world languages and culture who is a native speaker of the language, and an art teacher with five years of relevant work experience. Requires PELSB to adopt and revise rules regarding the qualifications and determinations for applicants exempt from subdivision 1.

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38	<p>Term of license and renewal. [Tier 3 license]</p> <p>Requires a Tier 3 teacher to meet initial teacher renewal requirements to renew license.</p>
39	<p>Requirements. [Tier 4 license]</p> <p>Requires teaching experience to be as teacher of record. Eliminates requirement that applicant show most recent summative evaluation did not place teacher on improvement process, and requires an applicant with a Tier 3 license to complete initial teacher renewal requirements.</p>
40	<p>Term of license and renewal. [Tier 4 license]</p> <p>Requires Tier 4 teacher to complete continuing teacher renewal requirements to renew license.</p>
41	<p>Tests. [Teacher licensure assessment]</p> <p>Eliminates requirements that Tier 4 teacher pass skills exam, and that Tier 3 teacher pass pedagogy and content exams. Allows Tier 4 applicants to meet pedagogy and content exam requirements with a performance assessment, and to meet content exam requirement with an exam taken in another state. Eliminates requirement that Tier 3 elementary school teachers pass test assessing knowledge, skill, and ability in reading instruction.</p> <p>Strikes exemption from reading, writing, and math skills exam for nonnative English speakers applying for license to teach in native language or world language.</p>
42	<p>Remedial assistance. [Teacher licensure assessment]</p> <p>Requires teacher preparation providers to report annually on supports provided to persons enrolled in their programs who do not pass license exams and request remedial assistance. Requires providers to provide remedial assistance on any licensing exam.</p>
43	<p>Expiration and Renewal.</p> <p>Subd. 1. License form requirements. Eliminates requirement that Tier 3 and Tier 4 teachers renewing licenses show satisfactory evidence of successful teaching or administrative experience for at least one school year or complete additional preparation.</p> <p>Subd. 3. Professional growth. Removes cultural competence and practice in meeting the needs of English learners from professional growth requirement. Eliminates option for teacher to satisfy professional growth requirement by submitting summative evaluation.</p>

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	<p>Allows PELSB to adopt and revise rule setting criteria for Tier 3 license renewal requirements that must be completed before a teacher may move to a Tier 4 license.</p> <p>Subd. 5. Reading preparation. Strikes requirement that rules on reading preparation be approved by law to take effect.</p> <p>Subd. 7. Cultural competency. Requires PELSB to adopt and revise rules that require all teachers renewing a Tier 3 or 4 license to have cultural competency training.</p> <p>Subd. 8. Meeting needs of multilingual learners. Requires PELSB to adopt and revise rules that require all teachers renewing a Tier 3 or 4 license to have training on meeting the needs of multilingual learners.</p> <p>Subd. 9. Mandatory renewal requirements. Requires PELSB to adopt and revise rules setting standards for all mandatory renewal requirements. Requires all trainings necessary for renewal to meet board requirements. Requires training provided outside of a district, charter school, cooperative unit, or state agency to be approved by the board.</p>
44	<p>Teacher preparation programs. [Bilingual and English as a second language teachers licenses]</p> <p>Allows teacher preparation programs for bilingual and English as a second language teachers to be provided outside of colleges or universities.</p>
45	<p>Teachers' and administrators' licenses; fees.</p> <p>Adds permissions to applications provision. Increases processing fee from \$57 to \$85. Specifies that pedagogy portfolio fee is \$300 and content portfolio fee is \$200.</p>
46	<p>Grant program administration. [Collaborative Urban and Greater Minnesota Educators of Color grant program]</p> <p>Modifies timeline for grant awards.</p>
47	<p>Report. [Collaborative Urban and Greater Minnesota Educators of Color grant program]</p> <p>Modifies reporting deadlines.</p>

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48	<p>Grant program administration. [Teacher mentorship and retention of effective teachers]</p> <p>Allows PELSB to enter into an interagency agreement with the Office of Higher Education or the Department of Education that includes a transfer of funds to that agency to help administer the competitive grant process.</p>
49	<p>Repealer.</p> <p>Repeals the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Section 122A.091, subdivisions 3 (requires school districts to report information on probationary teachers and principals) and 6 (requires PELSB to report to legislature by January 1, 2019, on implementation of tiered licensure)▪ Section 122A.092 (requires PELSB to adopt rules on teacher preparation programs and establishes requirements for teacher preparation programs; some of these requirements are similar to those in the new section on teacher preparation providers, section 18 above)▪ Section 122A.18, subdivision 7c (establishes a temporary military license)▪ Section 122A.184, subdivision 3 (requires a Tier 4 teacher to participate in the employing district’s mentorship and evaluation program)▪ Section 122A.2451 (establishes alternative teacher preparation providers and programs)



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