

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 5

SESSION: 2011 Regular Session

TOPIC: Teacher licensure provisions

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Analyst: Lisa Larson

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Overview

Proposes to establish an alternative teacher preparation program that allows eligible individuals to acquire a two-year limited-term teaching license and to prepare for acquiring a standard Minnesota teaching license.

Section

- 1 License and rules.** Directs the Board of Teaching to require teacher preparation programs, including alternative teacher preparation programs, to include in the preparation program a board-approved content-specific and performance-based assessment that measures teacher candidates in three areas: planning for instruction and assessment; engaging students and supporting learning; and assessing student learning.
- 2 Highly qualified teacher defined.** Defines "highly qualified" teacher to include teachers holding a valid teaching license under the section establishing an alternative teacher preparation program, among other licensed teachers.
- 3 Preparation equivalency.** Directs the Board of Teaching to establish criteria and streamlined procedures to recognize the experience and professional credentials of a person holding an out-of-state diploma or degree from an accredited out-of-state teacher training program and to allow that person to demonstrate to the board his or her qualifications for receiving a Minnesota teaching license based on board-adopted performance measures.
- 4 Alternative teacher preparation program and limited-term teacher license.**
 - Subd. 1. Requirements.** (a) To improve academic excellence and ethnic and cultural diversity and close the academic achievement gap, requires the Board of Teaching to approve qualified alternative teacher programs that offer teacher candidates a two-year limited term license, which may be renewed one additional year, and a means of

acquiring a five-year standard license. Allows a school district or charter school that forms a partnership with either a college or university with a board-approved teacher preparation program or with a nonprofit corporation formed under chapter 317A for an education-related purpose with a board-approved teacher preparation program to participate in a program under this section.

(b) Requires a teacher candidate under this program to have a bachelor's degree with a 3.0 or higher GPA unless the board waives the GPA requirement based on board-adopted criteria, pass the reading, writing, and math basic skills exam, and obtain qualifying scores on board-approved rigorous content area and pedagogy exams.

(c) Directs the Board of Teaching to issue a two-year limited-term license to a person who enrolls in an alternative teacher preparation program.

Subd. 2. Characteristics. Requires an alternative teacher preparation program to include: a minimum 200-hour instructional phase that provides intensive preparation and student teaching; a research-based and results-oriented focus on best teaching practices to increase student proficiency and growth; strategies to combine pedagogy and best teaching practices; assessment, supervision, and evaluation of teacher candidates to identify their needs and provide them with support; professional learning opportunities; and a requirement that teacher candidates demonstrate satisfactory progress toward acquiring a standard teaching license.

Subd. 3. Program approval; disapproval. (a) Directs the Board of Teaching to approve alternative teacher preparation programs based on board criteria that reflect best practices for alternative teacher preparation programs. Requires the board to allow teacher candidates to demonstrate mastery of pedagogy through nontraditional means.

(b) Allows the board to revoke its approval of a program under this section after notifying the program provider of the program deficiencies and giving the provider an opportunity to remedy the deficiencies.

Subd. 4. Employment conditions. Where applicable, provides for teacher candidates to be represented by the exclusive representative of the teachers and included in the collective bargaining agreement. Prohibits a collective bargaining agreement from preventing or restricting or otherwise interfering with a school district's ability to employ a teacher prepared under this section.

Subd. 5. Approval for standard license. Directs a local site team to evaluate the performance of the teacher candidate using board-adopted performance measures, state standards of effective teaching practice, and subject matter content standards and to submit to the board a report recommending whether or not to issue the teacher candidate a standard license.

Subd. 6. Applicants trained in other states. Allows a person who successfully completes another state's alternative teacher preparation program to apply to the board for a standard Minnesota teaching license.

Subd. 7. Standard license. Directs the Board of Teaching to issue a standard license to an otherwise qualified successful teacher candidate who passes the basic skills, content knowledge, and pedagogy exams and is recommended for licensure or, for a candidate trained in another state, who demonstrates to the board his or her qualifications for receiving a Minnesota teaching license.

Subd. 8. Highly qualified teacher. Declares that a person holding a limited-term license under this section is a qualified teacher and the teacher of record.

Subd. 9. Exchange of best practices. Directs program participants and MnSCU, the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Private College Council, and the Minnesota Department of Education to exchange information on a biennial basis about best practices and educational innovations.

Subd. 10. Reports. Directs the Board of Teaching to submit interim and final reports on program efficacy to the education committees of the legislature of this program.

Makes this section effective for the 2011-2012 school year and later.

5 Repealer. Repeals the current statutory section, Minnesota Statutes, section 122A.24, governing alternative teacher licensure.