

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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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 **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.

2 **Preparation equivalency.** Allows an out-of-state applicant for a Minnesota teaching license to satisfy state licensure requirements by successfully completing a content area exam in a content area that is not essentially equivalent.

3 **Alternative teacher preparation program and limited-term teacher license.**

Subd. 1. Requirements. (a) Requires the board of teaching to approve qualified alternative teacher preparation programs that offer teacher candidates a two-year limited term license in anticipation 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, or a board-approved district-based program to participate in a program under this section.

(b) Requires a teacher candidate under this program to have a bachelor’s degree, pass the reading, writing, and math basic skills exam, and obtain qualifying scores on the board’s content area and pedagogy exams.

Subd. 2. Characteristics. Requires an alternative teacher preparation program to include: a minimum 200-hour instructional phase; 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. 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.

Subd. 4. Employment conditions. Where applicable, allows teacher candidates to be represented by the exclusive representative of the teachers and to be included in the collective bargaining agreement.

Subd. 5. Approval for standard license. Directs a local site team to evaluate the performance of the teacher candidate using board-adopted performance measures and state standards of effective teaching practice and to submit to the board an evaluation 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 after successfully completing two years of classroom teaching. Directs the candidate to request a formal evaluation from the local site team that reflects the substance of Minnesota state standards of effective teaching practice and recommend to the board whether or not to issue the teacher candidate a standard 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.

Subd. 8. Highly qualified or 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. Reports. Directs the board of teaching to submit interim and final reports to the education committees of the legislature of this program.

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