

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Requires teacher candidates and applicants for a Minnesota teaching license who completed a teacher preparation program outside Minnesota to pass a basic skills exam in reading, writing, and math until September 1, 2014. Allows the Board of Teaching to issue a temporary one-year teaching license to a qualified candidate who has not passed the basic skills exam. Allows the Board of Teaching to renew this license if the licensee participates in a remedial assistance program, attempts to pass the basic skills exam during the one-year licensure period, and the school district employing the licensee requests that the licensee continue to teach in the district under a temporary license. Establishes an advisory task force to make recommendations to the Board of Teaching, the education commissioner, and the legislature on requirements for: teacher candidates to demonstrate mastery of basic skills in reading, writing, and math; and an alternative licensure pathway for nonnative English speakers seeking licensure to teach in a language immersion program. Requires a report by February 1, 2014.

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- 1** **Teacher and support personnel qualifications.** (b) Until September 1, 2014, requires teacher candidates to pass a basic skills reading, writing, and math test as a condition of receiving a teaching license. Allows the Board of Teaching to issue a temporary, one-year teaching license to a qualified teacher candidate who has not passed the basic skills exam at the time the person successfully completes a teacher preparation program. In addition to the teacher preparation programs and institutions, also requires school districts to provide remedial assistance to those person who did not pass the basic skills exam, including persons for whom English is a second language and persons who completed their teacher preparation

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program outside Minnesota, and are teaching under a temporary license.

(c) Allows the Board of Teaching to renew a temporary license if the licensee participated in a remedial assistance program, attempted to pass the basic skills exam during the one-year licensure period, and the school district employing the licensee requests that the licensee continue to teach in the district under a temporary license.

(f) Declares that beginning September 1, 2014, teacher candidates are not required to pass a basic skills exam in reading, writing, and math as a condition of receiving a teaching license.

Makes the section, other than paragraph (f), effective immediately; makes paragraph (f) effective beginning September 1, 2014.

- 2** **Applicants licensed in other states.** (f) Until September 1, 2014, requires an applicant for a Minnesota teaching license who completed a teacher preparation program outside Minnesota to pass a basic skills exam in reading, writing, and math before the Board of Teaching issues the applicant a Minnesota teaching license. Allows the board to issue a temporary, one-year teaching license to an otherwise qualified out-of-state applicant who has not passed the basic skills exam and allows the board to renew the license if the school district employing the applicant requests that the applicant continue to teach for the district under a temporary license. Declares that beginning September 1, 2014, otherwise qualified out-of-state applicants are not required to pass a basic skills exam in reading, writing, and math as a condition of receiving a Minnesota teaching license.

Makes this section effective immediately.

- 3** **Teacher licensure advisory task force.** (a) Establishes an advisory task force to make recommendations to the Board of Teaching, the education commissioner, and the legislature on requirements for: teacher candidates to demonstrate mastery of basic skills in reading, writing, and math; and an alternative licensure pathway for nonnative English speakers seeking licensure to teach in a language immersion program.

(b) Requires task force recommendations to encompass certain criteria: assessment content must be relevant to a teacher's licensure area; the scope of assessment content must correspond to school curriculum; the scope of assessment content must be publicly available and readily accessible on the website of the Board of Teaching and teacher preparation programs and institutions; the Board of Teaching and teacher preparation programs and institutions must make available a written review of the scope of content, upon request and without charge; if applicable, the board of teaching and teacher preparation programs and institutions must make available longitudinal summary data on the passing rates of teacher candidates taking a basic skills exam; evidence showing assessment content is not culturally biased; the board of teaching and teacher preparation programs and institutions must appropriately accommodate teacher candidates with documented disabilities; and, if applicable give timely feedback to teacher candidates who do not pass a basic skills exam so they may target areas of deficiency for remediation.

(c) Includes on the task force two members of the board of teaching; two representatives of the Minnesota Department of Education; two house members and two state senators; one

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rural elementary school principal and one urban secondary school principal; one elementary school teacher and one secondary school teacher appointed by Education Minnesota; one teacher preparation faculty member each from the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, and the Minnesota Private Colleges and Universities; one member of the nonpublic education council; and one charter schools representative.

(d) Directs the executive director of the board of teaching to convene the task force by August 1, 2013. Makes task force members ineligible for compensation or reimbursement for expenses related to task force activities. Directs the executive director of the Board of Teaching and the education commissioner to provide technical assistance upon request.

(e) Directs the task force to submit written recommendations to the Board of Teaching, the education commissioner, and the legislature by February 1, 2014, on requirements for teacher applicants to demonstrate mastery of basic skills in reading, writing, and math and for an alternative licensure pathway for nonnative English speakers seeking licensure to teach in a language immersion program.

Makes this section effective immediately.