

SENATE FILE _____
BY JOHNSON

A BILL FOR

1 An Act authorizing the executive director of the board
2 of educational examiners to waive subject assessment
3 requirements for teacher licensure.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 272.7, unnumbered paragraph 2, Code
2 2015, is amended to read as follows:

3 The executive director of the board may grant or deny license
4 applications, applications for renewal of a license, and
5 suspension or revocation of a license. The executive director
6 shall waive, for not more than two years, the assessment
7 requirements established by the board by rule in accordance
8 with section 256.16, subsection 1, paragraph "a", subparagraph
9 (2), for an applicant who otherwise meets the requirements
10 for licensure. A denial of an application for a license,
11 the denial of an application for renewal, or a suspension or
12 revocation of a license may be appealed by the applicant or the
13 practitioner to the board.

14 EXPLANATION

15 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
16 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

17 This bill requires the executive director of the board
18 of educational examiners to waive, for otherwise qualified
19 applicants and for not more than two years, a provision that
20 effectively requires applicants for teacher licensure to have
21 achieved a minimum score on state-mandated subject assessments.

22 Postsecondary institutions that are providing practitioner
23 preparation programs which have been approved by the state
24 board of education must administer to students enrolled in the
25 programs, prior to the students' completion of the program,
26 subject assessments. A student cannot successfully complete
27 such a program without scoring above the 25th percentile
28 nationally.

29 The board of educational examiners' rules require that
30 an applicant for teacher licensure who completed a teacher
31 preparation program on or after January 1, 2013, that was not
32 an approved practitioner preparation program at a recognized
33 Iowa institution, must provide verification of successfully
34 passing the mandated assessments by meeting the minimum score
35 set by the department of education.