

House File 403 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 403

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to specific criteria for teacher preparation
2 and including effective date provisions.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.16, subsection 1, paragraph a,
2 subparagraph (2), Code 2013, is amended to read as follows:

3 (2) Administer, ~~prior to a student's completion of the~~
4 ~~practitioner preparation program and subject to the director's~~
5 ~~approval,~~ subject assessments designed by a nationally
6 recognized testing service that measure pedagogy and knowledge
7 of at least one subject area; or, a valid and reliable
8 ~~subject area specific~~ discipline-specific, performance-based
9 assessment for preservice teacher candidates, centered on
10 student learning. ~~A student shall not successfully complete~~
11 ~~the program unless the student achieves scores above the~~
12 ~~twenty-fifth percentile nationally on the assessments~~
13 ~~administered pursuant to this subparagraph~~ The practitioner
14 preparation program may determine whether to administer the
15 subject and pedagogy assessments or the discipline-specific,
16 performance-based assessment to a student.

17 Sec. 2. Section 256.16, subsection 1, Code 2013, is amended
18 by adding the following new paragraph:

19 NEW PARAGRAPH. *d.* Work with the board of educational
20 examiners to develop valid and reliable pathways to licensure
21 by subject area which a student enrolled in the program may
22 elect to pursue.

23 Sec. 3. Section 256.16, Code 2013, is amended by adding the
24 following new subsection:

25 NEW SUBSECTION. 3. *a.* A council on pathways to licensure
26 is established, administratively attached to the board of
27 educational examiners, to identify appropriate levels of
28 proficiency in each licensure pathway developed pursuant to
29 subsection 1, paragraph "d" and to periodically review the
30 levels of proficiency in each licensure pathway. The council
31 shall consist of the director of the department of education,
32 or the director's designee, and the remaining members shall be
33 appointed by the executive director of the board of educational
34 examiners as follows:

35 (1) Three practitioner preparation program faculty members,

1 who shall represent accredited private institutions offering
2 practitioner preparation programs approved pursuant to section
3 256.7, subsection 3.

4 (2) Three practitioner preparation program faculty members
5 who shall represent institutions of higher learning governed by
6 the state board of regents offering practitioner preparation
7 programs approved pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 3.

8 b. Members appointed pursuant to paragraph "a",
9 subparagraphs (1) and (2) shall serve staggered four-year terms
10 beginning and ending as provided in section 69.19. A vacancy
11 shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment
12 and shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term of the
13 vacancy. The council shall elect a chairperson and vice
14 chairperson. The council shall meet regularly as determined by
15 the council, upon the call of the chairperson, or upon the call
16 of a majority of the members. Members shall be reimbursed for
17 actual and necessary expenses incurred in performance of their
18 duties. The board of educational examiners shall provide staff
19 assistance and administrative support to the council.

20 c. The council shall assist the board of educational
21 examiners and the state board in resolving issues which are
22 directly related to pathways to licensure and practitioner
23 preparation programs. The council shall determine, and shall
24 periodically review, targeted proficiency levels for the
25 assessments administered pursuant to section 256.16, subsection
26 1, paragraph "a", subparagraph (2), which shall be adopted
27 by rule by the state board. The council shall formulate
28 recommendations on any issue referred to it by the board of
29 educational examiners or the state board and shall submit
30 its recommendations to both boards within any specified time
31 periods. The council shall submit an annual report with its
32 findings and recommendations, including any recommendations
33 for changes in law or policy, to the board of educational
34 examiners, the state board, the governor, and the general
35 assembly by January 15.

1 nationally on the assessment in order to complete the program.
2 These provisions take effect July 1, 2014.

3 The bill also requires the programs to work with the board of
4 educational examiners to develop valid and reliable pathways to
5 licensure by subject area and allows students to choose which
6 pathway to pursue.

7 The bill establishes a council on pathways to licensure,
8 attached to the board of educational examiners, to identify
9 appropriate levels of proficiency in each licensure pathway
10 and to periodically review the levels of proficiency in each
11 licensure pathway. The council consists of the director of the
12 department of education, or the director's designee, and six
13 members appointed to four-year staggered terms by the executive
14 director of the board of educational examiners to represent
15 the practitioner preparation programs offered by the regents
16 universities and three practitioner preparation programs
17 offered by accredited private institutions.

18 The board of educational examiners shall provide staff
19 assistance and administrative support to the council.

20 The council shall assist both the board of educational
21 examiners and the state board in resolving issues which are
22 directly related to pathways to licensure and practitioner
23 preparation programs. The council shall formulate
24 recommendations on any issue referred to it by those boards
25 and shall submit its recommendations within any specified time
26 periods. The council shall determine, and shall periodically
27 review, targeted proficiency levels for the assessments
28 administered pursuant to section 256.16, subsection 1,
29 paragraph "a", subparagraph (2), which shall be adopted by
30 rule by the state board. The council shall submit an annual
31 report with its findings and recommendations, including any
32 recommendations for changes in law or policy, to the boards,
33 the governor, and the general assembly by January 15. However,
34 the initial report shall be submitted by November 15, 2013, and
35 the first annual report shall be submitted by January 15, 2015.

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1 The initial board members shall be appointed to staggered terms
2 which begin July 1, 2013, and expire on April 30 in the year of
3 expiration.