

Senate File 2171 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2171
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 128)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to subject assessment requirements for
2 successful completion of an approved practitioner
3 preparation program and providing for related matters.
4 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 2018, is amended to read as follows:

3 (2) (a) 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, performance-based assessment for
9 preservice teacher candidates, centered on student learning.
10 A student shall not successfully complete the program unless
11 the student achieves scores above the twenty-fifth percentile
12 nationally on the assessments administered pursuant to this
13 subparagraph.

14 (b) The state board shall adopt rules to provide that
15 the director shall waive the assessment requirements of
16 subparagraph division (a) for one year for a person if the
17 person has received an offer for a teaching contract from
18 a school district or accredited nonpublic school and the
19 applicant submits to the director an affidavit from the
20 administrator of the school district or the accredited
21 nonpublic school verifying that the school district or
22 accredited nonpublic school has made every reasonable and
23 good-faith effort to employ a teacher licensed under chapter
24 272 for the specified subject and is unable to employ such a
25 teacher, and the person meets any of the following conditions:

26 (i) Completed the course requirements for an approved
27 practitioner preparation program but attained an assessment
28 score below that required for successful completion of the
29 program under subparagraph division (a).

30 (ii) Attended and successfully completed a practitioner
31 preparation program outside of this state that would be
32 considered approved by the state board except that the
33 program either does not require the assessments specified in
34 subparagraph division (a) or accepts assessment scores below
35 those required under subparagraph division (a).

1 (c) If a person receives a waiver under subparagraph
2 division (b) and within thirty days of receiving the waiver
3 submits the waiver and an application for licensure to the
4 board of educational examiners, the board of educational
5 examiners shall issue to the applicant an initial one-year
6 license, which shall not be renewed unless the applicant
7 submits evidence to the board of educational examiners that
8 the person has achieved the scores required in accordance with
9 subparagraph division (a).

10 Sec. 2. Section 272.2, subsection 14, paragraph b,
11 subparagraph (5), Code 2018, is amended to read as follows:

12 (5) The applicant fails to meet board standards for
13 application for an initial or renewed license. However, this
14 subparagraph shall not apply to a person who applies for an
15 initial one-year license and submits to the board a waiver
16 issued by the director of the department in accordance with
17 section 256.16.

18 EXPLANATION

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

21 This bill requires the director of the department of
22 education to waive a requirement for successful completion of a
23 practitioner preparation program under certain conditions and
24 requires the board of educational examiners, if presented with
25 such a waiver by an applicant for initial licensure, to issue
26 an initial one-year license to the applicant.

27 Currently, students enrolled in such a program must achieve
28 scores above the 25th percentile nationally on subject and
29 performance-based assessments before successfully completing
30 the program. To receive a one-year waiver from these
31 assessment requirements, the bill provides that a person must
32 have been offered a teaching contract by a school district or
33 accredited nonpublic school and must submit to the director
34 an affidavit from the administrator of the school district or
35 school verifying that every reasonable and good-faith effort

1 has been made by the school district or school to employ a
2 licensed teacher for the specified subject and the school
3 district or school is unable to do so.

4 If such a person applies to the board of educational
5 examiners within 30 days of receiving the waiver, the board
6 must issue the applicant an initial one-year license, which
7 shall not be renewed unless the person submits proof to the
8 board that the person has achieved the necessary assessment
9 scores. The bill makes a conforming change.