

House File 513 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 513
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 17)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to assessment scores set by the department
2 of education for successful completion of a practitioner
3 preparation program and for initial teacher licensure and
4 providing for related matters.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 3, Code 2019, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 3. Prescribe standards and procedures for the approval of
4 practitioner preparation programs and professional development
5 programs offered in this state by practitioner preparation
6 institutions located within or outside this state and by
7 area education agencies. Procedures provided for approval
8 of programs shall include procedures for enforcement of
9 the prescribed standards and, except as provided in section
10 256.16, subsection 3, shall not include a procedure for the
11 waiving of any of the standards prescribed. The board may
12 establish by rule and collect from practitioner preparation
13 institutions located outside this state an amount equivalent
14 to the department's necessary travel and actual expenses
15 incurred while engaged in the program approval process for the
16 institution located outside this state. Amounts collected
17 under this subsection shall be deposited in the general fund
18 of the state.

19 Sec. 2. Section 256.16, subsection 1, paragraph a,
20 subparagraph (2), Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

21 (2) Administer, prior to a student's completion of the
22 practitioner preparation program and subject to the director's
23 approval, subject assessments designed by a nationally
24 recognized testing service that measure pedagogy and knowledge
25 of at least one subject area; or, a valid and reliable
26 subject-area-specific, performance-based assessment for
27 preservice teacher candidates, centered on student learning.
28 A student shall not successfully complete the program unless
29 the scores achieved by the student achieves scores on the
30 assessments administered under this subparagraph are at or
31 above the twenty-fifth percentile nationally on the assessments
32 administered pursuant to this subparagraph minimum passing
33 scores set by the department.

34 (a) In setting the minimum passing scores for purposes of
35 this subparagraph, the department shall consider all of the

1 following:

2 (i) Scores required for similar tests in all of the states
3 contiguous to Iowa.

4 (ii) The supply and demand imbalance of content areas or
5 teaching positions currently experienced in Iowa.

6 (b) A student who successfully completes the practitioner
7 preparation program as required under this subparagraph shall
8 be deemed to have attained a passing score on the assessments
9 administered under this subparagraph even if the department
10 subsequently sets different minimum passing scores.

11 Sec. 3. Section 256.16, subsection 2, Code 2019, is amended
12 to read as follows:

13 2. A person initially applying for a license shall
14 successfully complete ~~a professional education~~ a practitioner
15 preparation program approved under section 256.7, subsection 3,
16 and containing the subject matter specified in [this section](#),
17 before the initial action by the board of educational examiners
18 under chapter 272 takes place. However, this subsection shall
19 not apply to a person who meets the requirements for an initial
20 one-year license in accordance with subsection 3.

21 Sec. 4. Section 256.16, Code 2019, is amended by adding the
22 following new subsection:

23 NEW SUBSECTION. 3. The state board shall adopt rules
24 under chapter 17A to provide that the director shall waive
25 the assessment requirements of subsection 1, paragraph "a",
26 subparagraph (2), for not more than one year for a person
27 who has completed the course requirements for an approved
28 practitioner preparation program but attained an assessment
29 score below the minimum passing scores set by the department
30 for successful completion of the program under subsection 1,
31 paragraph "a", subparagraph (2).

32 Sec. 5. Section 272.2, subsection 14, paragraph b,
33 subparagraph (5), Code 2019, is amended to read as follows:

34 (5) The applicant fails to meet board standards for
35 application for an initial or renewed license. However, this

1 subparagraph shall not apply to a person who applies for an
2 initial one-year license and submits to the board a waiver
3 issued by the director of the department of education in
4 accordance with section 256.16, subsection 3.

5 Sec. 6. Section 272.2, Code 2019, is amended by adding the
6 following new subsection:

7 NEW SUBSECTION. 21. Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A to
8 create a nonrenewable initial one-year license for an applicant
9 who obtains a waiver issued by the director of the department
10 of education in accordance with section 256.16, subsection
11 3, and presents the waiver within thirty days of issuance
12 to the board of educational examiners. Such an applicant
13 must also provide an affidavit from the administrator of a
14 school district or an accredited nonpublic school verifying
15 that an offer of a teaching contract has been made and the
16 school district or accredited nonpublic school has made every
17 reasonable and good-faith effort to employ a teacher licensed
18 under chapter 272 for the specified subject and is unable to
19 employ such a teacher. For purposes of this subsection, "*good*
20 *faith effort*" means the same as defined in section 279.19A,
21 subsection 9.

22 EXPLANATION

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

25 This bill authorizes the department of education to set the
26 minimum passing scores necessary for a student to successfully
27 complete a practitioner preparation program in order to receive
28 an initial teaching license from the board of educational
29 examiners and establishes a waiver procedure for students who
30 do not attain the minimum assessment score.

31 Currently, students must achieve scores above the 25th
32 percentile nationally on certain subject and performance-based
33 assessments. In setting the minimum assessment scores, the
34 bill directs the department to consider the scores required
35 for similar tests in all of the states contiguous to Iowa and

1 the supply and demand imbalance of content areas or teaching
2 positions currently experienced in Iowa. If the department
3 sets new passing scores in subsequent years, a student who
4 successfully completes the practitioner preparation program
5 shall be deemed to have achieved minimum passing scores.

6 The state board must adopt rules requiring that the
7 director of the department of education waive the assessment
8 requirements for one year for a person who has completed
9 approved practitioner preparation program course requirements
10 but attained an assessment score below the minimum.

11 The board of educational examiners must adopt rules to
12 create a nonrenewable initial one-year license for applicants
13 who obtain a waiver and present it within 30 days of issuance
14 to the board.

15 A licensure applicant who applies for such an initial
16 one-year license must also provide an affidavit from the
17 administrator of a school district or an accredited nonpublic
18 school verifying that an offer of a teaching contract has been
19 made and that the school district or accredited nonpublic
20 school has made every reasonable and good faith effort but has
21 failed to employ an Iowa-licensed teacher for the specified
22 subject.

23 Provisions of law that restrict initial licensure to those
24 who have successfully completed an approved practitioner
25 preparation program and to those who have met board standards
26 for initial licensure are made inapplicable to persons who meet
27 initial one-year licensure and waiver requirements.