

Senate Study Bill 1031 - Introduced

SENATE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON SINCLAIR)

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 use the recommended

1 scores which are determined by the assessment provider through
2 a validated standard-setting process.

3 (b) A student who successfully completes the practitioner
4 preparation program as required under this subparagraph
5 shall be deemed, for purposes of licensure by the board of
6 educational examiners, to have attained a passing score on the
7 assessments administered under this subparagraph even if the
8 department subsequently sets different minimum passing scores.

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

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

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

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

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

33 (5) The applicant fails to meet board standards for
34 application for an initial or renewed license. However, this
35 subparagraph shall not apply to a person who applies for an

1 initial one-year license and submits to the board a waiver
2 issued by the director of the department of education in
3 accordance with section 256.16, subsection 3.

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

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

19 EXPLANATION

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

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

28 Currently, students must achieve scores above the 25th
29 percentile nationally on certain subject and performance-based
30 assessments. In setting the minimum assessment scores, the
31 bill directs the department to use the recommended scores
32 determined by the assessment provider through a validated
33 standard-setting process. Even if the department sets new
34 passing scores in subsequent years, a student who successfully
35 completes the practitioner preparation program shall be

1 deemed to have achieved minimum passing scores for purposes of
2 licensure by the board of educational examiners.

3 The state board must adopt rules requiring that the
4 director of the department of education waive the assessment
5 requirements for one year for a person who has completed
6 approved practitioner preparation program course requirements,
7 or at a recognized non-Iowa preparation institution, but
8 attained an assessment score below the minimum.

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

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

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