

House File 2021 - Introduced

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BY GOBBLE

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to practitioner preparation programs, including
2 field experiences and the assessments administered to
3 students admitted to practitioner preparation programs, and
4 including applicability provisions.

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

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 3, paragraph b, Code
2 2022, is amended to read as follows:

3 b. Procedures provided for approval of programs shall
4 include procedures for enforcement of the prescribed standards
5 and, ~~except as provided in section 256.16, subsection 3,~~ shall
6 not include a procedure for the waiving of any of the standards
7 prescribed.

8 Sec. 2. Section 256.16, subsection 1, paragraphs a and d,
9 Code 2022, are amended to read as follows:

10 a. ~~(1)~~ If the institution administers a preprofessional
11 skills test offered by a nationally recognized testing service
12 to practitioner preparation program admission candidates,
13 the institution shall report to the department no later than
14 August 1 annually, in the form and manner prescribed by the
15 department, the percentage of students whose scores on the
16 assessments administered during the prior fiscal year were
17 above, at, and below the minimum passing score set by the
18 institution, and shall report any services or opportunities to
19 retake the assessment the institution may make available to a
20 student who fails assessment. The department shall compile the
21 reports submitted under this ~~subparagraph~~ paragraph and publish
22 the compiled information on its internet site.

23 ~~(2) Administer, prior to a student's completion of the~~
24 ~~practitioner preparation program and subject to the director's~~
25 ~~approval, subject assessments designed by a nationally~~
26 ~~recognized testing service that measure pedagogy and knowledge~~
27 ~~of at least one subject area; or, a valid and reliable~~
28 ~~subject area specific, performance-based assessment for~~
29 ~~preservice teacher candidates, centered on student learning. A~~
30 ~~student shall not successfully complete the program unless the~~
31 ~~scores achieved by the student on the assessments administered~~
32 ~~under this subparagraph are at or above the 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 *d.* Require that each student admitted to an approved
12 practitioner preparation program participate in pre-student
13 teaching field experiences that include both observation and
14 participation in teaching activities in a variety of school
15 settings. These pre-student teaching field experiences
16 shall comprise a total of at least ~~fifty~~ one hundred hours in
17 duration, at least ten hours of which shall occur prior to a
18 student's acceptance in an approved practitioner preparation
19 program. The student teaching experience shall be a minimum
20 of fourteen weeks in duration during the student's final year
21 of the practitioner preparation program. The program shall
22 make every reasonable effort to offer the student teaching
23 experience prior to a student's last semester, or equivalent,
24 in the program, and to expand the student's student teaching
25 opportunities beyond one semester or the equivalent.

26 Sec. 3. Section 256.16, subsection 2, Code 2022, is amended
27 to read as follows:

28 2. A person initially applying for a license shall
29 successfully complete a practitioner preparation program
30 approved under [section 256.7, subsection 3](#), and containing the
31 subject matter specified in [this section](#), before the initial
32 action by the board of educational examiners under chapter
33 272 takes place. ~~However, [this subsection](#) shall not apply to~~
34 ~~a person who meets the requirements for an initial one-year~~
35 ~~license in accordance with [subsection 3](#).~~

1 Sec. 4. Section 256.16, subsection 3, Code 2022, is amended
2 by striking the subsection.

3 Sec. 5. Section 272.2, subsection 14, paragraph b,
4 subparagraph (5), Code 2022, is amended to read as follows:

5 (5) The applicant fails to meet board standards for
6 application for an initial or renewed license. ~~However, this~~
7 ~~subparagraph shall not apply to a person who applies for an~~
8 ~~initial one-year license and submits to the board a waiver~~
9 ~~issued by the director of the department of education in~~
10 ~~accordance with [section 256.16, subsection 3.](#)~~

11 Sec. 6. Section 272.2, subsection 22, Code 2022, is amended
12 by striking the subsection.

13 Sec. 7. APPLICABILITY. The following applies to students
14 admitted to an approved practitioner preparation program on or
15 after the effective date of this Act:

16 The portion of the section of this Act amending section
17 256.16, subsection 1, paragraph "d".

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 relates to practitioner preparation programs,
22 including field experiences and the assessments administered to
23 students admitted into practitioner preparation programs.

24 Current law requires the state board of education to adopt
25 rules requiring all higher education institutions providing
26 practitioner preparation to, prior to a student's completion
27 of the practitioner preparation program, administer either
28 subject assessments designed by a nationally recognized
29 testing service or a valid and reliable subject-area-specific,
30 performance-based assessment centered on student learning. The
31 bill strikes this requirement and makes conforming changes.

32 Current law also requires that each student admitted to an
33 approved practitioner preparation program participate in field
34 experiences of at least 50 hours in duration, a minimum of 10
35 hours of which occurring prior to the student's acceptance into

1 the program, which include both observation and participation
2 in teaching activities in a variety of school settings. The
3 bill provides that these field experiences must take place
4 before the student begins student teaching and must be at least
5 100 hours in duration, a minimum of 10 hours of which occurring
6 prior to the student's acceptance into the program. This
7 portion of the bill applies to students admitted to an approved
8 practitioner preparation program on or after the effective date
9 of the bill.