

**Senate File 2171 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2171  
BY SINCLAIR

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to qualifications for admission to practice law.  
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 602.10102, Code 2026, is amended to read  
2 as follows:

3 **602.10102 Qualifications for admission.**

4 1. Every applicant for such admission shall be a person of  
5 honesty, integrity, trustworthiness, and truthfulness, and one  
6 who appreciates and will adhere to a code of conduct for lawyers  
7 as adopted by the supreme court. The applicant shall have  
8 actually done one of the following:

9 a. Actually and in good faith pursued a regular course of  
10 study of the law and ~~shall have~~ graduated from some reputable law  
11 school.

12 b. Worked as an employee of the general assembly with a  
13 combined ten years of experience in legislative research or  
14 analysis or as a member of the general assembly.

15 2. The application form shall not contain a recent photograph  
16 of the applicant. An applicant shall not be ineligible for  
17 registration because of age, citizenship, sex, race, religion,  
18 marital status, or national origin, although the application form  
19 may require citizenship information. The board may consider the  
20 past record of guilty pleas and convictions of public offenses  
21 of an applicant. Character references may be required; however,  
22 such references shall not be restricted to lawyers.

23 EXPLANATION

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

26 This bill relates to qualifications for admission to practice  
27 law.

28 Current law requires an applicant for admission to practice  
29 law to have studied law and graduated from a reputable law  
30 school. The bill provides an alternative, authorizing applicants  
31 who have worked as an employee of the general assembly with  
32 a combined 10 years of experience in legislative research or  
33 analysis or as a member of the general assembly.