

Senate File 159 - Reprinted

SENATE FILE 159
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1031)

(As Amended and Passed by the Senate March 27, 2019)

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
19 to employ such a teacher. For purposes of this subsection,
20 "*good-faith effort*" means the same as defined in section
21 279.19A, subsection 9.