

Senate Bill No. 264—Senators Cegavske, Beers, Care, Hardy, Heck, Horsford, Lee, McGinness, Nolan, Raggio, Rhoads and Washington

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to education; providing for the issuance and renewal of a special qualifications license to an applicant who satisfies certain certification, examination and other requirements; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Under existing law, a person may be issued a special qualifications license to teach if he satisfies certain requirements. (NRS 391.019) This bill provides that such a license may also be issued to a person who holds a Passport to Teaching certification from the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence, passes certain examinations required by this State and agrees to participate in a program of mentoring for the first year of his employment as a teacher with a school district or charter school.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 391.019 is hereby amended to read as follows:
391.019 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 391.027, the Commission:

(a) Shall adopt regulations:

(1) Prescribing the qualifications for licensing teachers and other educational personnel, including, without limitation, the qualifications for a license to teach middle school or junior high school education, and the procedures for the issuance and renewal of such licenses.

(2) Identifying fields of specialization in teaching which require the specialized training of teachers.

(3) Except as otherwise provided in NRS 391.125, requiring teachers to obtain from the Department an endorsement in a field of specialization to be eligible to teach in that field of specialization.

(4) Setting forth the educational requirements a teacher must satisfy to qualify for an endorsement in each field of specialization.

(5) Setting forth the qualifications and requirements for obtaining a license or endorsement to teach American Sign Language, including, without limitation, being qualified to engage in the practice of interpreting pursuant to subsection 3 of NRS 656A.100.



(6) Except as otherwise authorized by subsection 4 of NRS 656A.100, requiring teachers and other educational personnel to satisfy the qualifications set forth in subsection 3 of NRS 656A.100 if they:

(I) Provide instruction or other educational services; and

(II) Concurrently engage in the practice of interpreting, as defined in NRS 656A.060.

(7) Providing for the issuance and renewal of a special qualifications license to an applicant who holds a master's degree or a doctoral degree from an accredited degree-granting postsecondary educational institution in a field for which the applicant will provide instruction in a classroom and who has:

(I) At least 2 years of experience teaching at an accredited degree-granting postsecondary educational institution in a field for which the applicant will provide instruction in a classroom and at least 3 years of experience working in that field; or

(II) At least 5 years of experience working in a field for which the applicant will provide instruction in a classroom.

(8) Requiring an applicant for a special qualifications license to:

(I) Pass each examination required by NRS 391.021 for the specific subject or subjects in which the applicant will provide instruction; or

(II) Hold a valid license issued by a professional licensing board of any state that is directly related to the subject area of the master's degree or doctoral degree held by the applicant.

(9) Setting forth the subject areas that may be taught by a person who holds a special qualifications license, based upon the subject area of the master's degree or doctoral degree held by that person.

(10) Providing for the issuance *and renewal* of a *special qualifications* license to ~~teach to a person~~ *an applicant* who:

(I) Holds a graduate degree from an accredited college or university in the field for which he will be providing instruction;

(II) Is not licensed to teach public school in another state;

(III) Has at least 5 years of experience teaching with satisfactory evaluations at a school that is accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education; and

(IV) Submits proof of participation in a program of student teaching or mentoring or agrees to participate in a program of mentoring for the first year of his employment as a teacher with a school district or charter school.



➔ An applicant for licensure pursuant to this subparagraph is exempt from each examination required by NRS 391.021 if the applicant successfully passed the examination in another state.

(11) If the Commission approves the Passport to Teaching certification from the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence as an alternative route to licensure, providing for the issuance and renewal of a special qualifications license to an applicant who:

(I) Holds a Passport to Teaching certification from the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence;

(II) Passes each examination required by NRS 391.021 for the specific subject or subjects in which the applicant will provide instruction; and

(III) Agrees to participate in a program of mentoring prescribed by the Commission for the first year of his employment as a teacher with a school district or charter school.

(b) May adopt such other regulations as it deems necessary for its own government or to carry out its duties.

2. Any regulation which increases the amount of education, training or experience required for licensing:

(a) Must, in addition to the requirements for publication in chapter 233B of NRS, be publicized before its adoption in a manner reasonably calculated to inform those persons affected by the change.

(b) Must not become effective until at least 1 year after the date it is adopted by the Commission.

(c) Is not applicable to a license in effect on the date the regulation becomes effective.

3. A person who is licensed pursuant to subparagraph (7) , ~~for~~ (10) ***or (11)*** of paragraph (a) of subsection 1:

(a) Shall comply with all applicable statutes and regulations.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by specific statute, is entitled to all benefits, rights and privileges conferred by statutes and regulations on licensed teachers.

(c) Except as otherwise provided by specific statute, if he is employed as a teacher by the board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of a charter school, is entitled to all benefits, rights and privileges conferred by statutes and regulations on the licensed employees of a school district or charter school, as applicable.

Sec. 2. NRS 391.031 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.031 There are the following kinds of licenses for teachers and other educational personnel in this State:



1. A license to teach elementary education, which authorizes the holder to teach in any elementary school in the State.

2. A license to teach middle school or junior high school education, which authorizes the holder to teach in his major or minor field of preparation or in both fields in grades 7, 8 and 9 at any middle school or junior high school. He may teach only in these fields unless an exception is approved pursuant to regulations adopted by the Commission.

3. A license to teach secondary education, which authorizes the holder to teach in his major or minor field of preparation or in both fields in any secondary school. He may teach only in these fields unless an exception is approved pursuant to regulations adopted by the Commission.

4. A special license, which authorizes the holder to teach or perform other educational functions in a school or program as designated in the license.

5. A special license designated as a special qualifications license, which authorizes the holder to teach only in the grades and subject areas designated in the license. A special qualifications license is valid for 3 years and may be renewed in accordance with the **applicable** regulations of the Commission adopted pursuant to subparagraph (7) , **(10) or (11)** of paragraph (a) of subsection 1 of NRS 391.019.

Sec. 3. NRS 391.037 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.037 1. The State Board shall:

(a) Prescribe by regulation the standards for approval of a course of study or training offered by an educational institution to qualify a person to be a teacher or administrator or to perform other educational functions.

(b) Maintain descriptions of the approved courses of study required to qualify for endorsements in fields of specialization and provide to an applicant, upon request, the approved course of study for a particular endorsement.

2. Except for an applicant who submits an application for the issuance of a license pursuant to subparagraph (7) , ~~(10)~~ **(11)** of paragraph (a) of subsection 1 of NRS 391.019, an applicant for a license as a teacher or administrator or to perform some other educational function must submit with his application, in the form prescribed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, proof that he has satisfactorily completed a course of study and training approved by the State Board pursuant to subsection 1.

Sec. 4. If the Commission on Professional Standards in Education adopts regulations pursuant to subparagraph (11) of paragraph (a) of subsection 1 of NRS 391.019, as amended by



section 1 of this act, providing an alternative route to licensure for persons who hold a Passport to Teaching certification from the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence, the Commission shall, on or before July 1 of each year, submit to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislative Committee on Education a report which includes, without limitation:

1. The number of applicants for licensure under those provisions;
2. The number of teachers who are licensed under those provisions that are subsequently employed by a school district in this State;
3. The assessment of such teachers by the principals of the schools at which the teachers are employed; and
4. Any recommendations for legislation that may improve the effectiveness of the alternative route to licensure.

Sec. 5. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2007, and expires by limitation on June 30, 2011.

