

SENATE BILL NO. 259—SENATOR CEGAVSKE

MARCH 16, 2009

Referred to Committee on Health and Education

SUMMARY—Establishes a temporary program for the alternative licensure of teachers. (BDR 34-679)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to education; establishing a program for the alternative licensure of teachers; requiring the Commission on Professional Standards in Education to adopt regulations providing for the issuance and renewal of a special qualifications license to teach in certain subject areas to applicants who satisfy certain requirements; providing for the prospective expiration of the program; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 Existing law provides for the issuance of a special qualifications license to
2 teach to an applicant who satisfies certain requirements. (NRS 391.019) **Section 1**
3 of this bill establishes a program for the alternative licensure of teachers and
4 requires the Commission on Professional Standards in Education to adopt
5 regulations providing for the issuance and renewal of a special qualifications
6 license to teach in the subject areas of biological science, chemistry, general
7 science, mathematics or physics to an applicant who: (1) holds a Passport to
8 Teaching certification from the American Board for Certification of Teacher
9 Excellence; and (2) agrees to participate in a program of mentoring for the first year
10 of his employment as a teacher with a school district or charter school. An applicant
11 for such licensure is exempt from certain examination requirements. A person who
12 is licensed pursuant to **section 1** may not teach in a public school which is
13 designated as demonstrating need for improvement. **Sections 3 and 4** of this bill
14 specify that a special qualifications license issued pursuant to the program for
15 alternative licensure is subject to existing provisions of law governing certain other
16 special qualifications licenses. (NRS 391.031, 391.037) **Section 6** of this bill
17 requires the Commission to report to the Legislature on or before December 31,
18 2014, concerning the program for alternative licensure. **Section 7** of this bill
19 provides for the prospective expiration of the program on June 30, 2015.



Existing law provides for a similar program for alternative licensure but conditions that program on the approval by the Commission of the Passport to Teaching certification from the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence as an alternative route to licensure. That program is currently codified in NRS 391.019 and is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2011. **Section 5** of this bill provides for the expiration of that program on June 30, 2009, to correspond with the enactment of the program for alternative licensure established by **section 1** of this bill.

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

Section 1. Chapter 391 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. There is hereby established a program for the alternative licensure of teachers.

2. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 391.027, the Commission shall adopt regulations providing for the issuance and renewal of a special qualifications license to teach in the subject areas of biological science, chemistry, general science, mathematics or physics to an applicant who:

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

(b) Agrees to participate in a program of mentoring of the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence or other program provider for the first year of his employment as a teacher with a school district or charter school.

3. An applicant for licensure pursuant to this section is exempt from each examination required by NRS 391.021.

4. The board of trustees of a school district and the governing body of a charter school shall not employ a person who is licensed pursuant to this section to teach in a public school which is designated as demonstrating need for improvement pursuant to NRS 385.3623.

Sec. 2. NRS 391.021 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.021 Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (10) of paragraph (a) of subsection 1 of NRS 391.019 and NRS 391.027, *and section 1 of this act*, the Commission shall adopt regulations governing examinations for the initial licensing of teachers and other educational personnel. The examinations must test the ability of the applicant to teach and his knowledge of each specific subject he proposes to teach. Each examination must include the following subjects:

1. The laws of Nevada relating to schools;
2. The Constitution of the State of Nevada; and
3. The Constitution of the United States.



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1 ➤ The provisions of this section do not prohibit the Commission
2 from adopting regulations pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 391.032
3 that provide an exemption from the examinations for teachers and
4 other educational personnel who have previous experience in
5 teaching or performing other educational functions in another state.

6 **Sec. 3.** NRS 391.031 is hereby amended to read as follows:

7 391.031 There are the following kinds of licenses for teachers
8 and other educational personnel in this State:

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

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

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

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

25 5. A special license designated as a special qualifications
26 license, which authorizes the holder to teach only in the grades and
27 subject areas designated in the license. A special qualifications
28 license is valid for 3 years and may be renewed in accordance with
29 the applicable regulations of the Commission adopted pursuant to
30 ~~{subparagraph}~~ :

31 *(a) Subparagraph (7) or (10) of paragraph (a) of subsection 1 of*
32 *NRS 391.019 ~~H~~ ; or*

33 *(b) Section 1 of this act.*

34 **Sec. 4.** NRS 391.037 is hereby amended to read as follows:

35 391.037 1. The State Board shall:

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

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

44 2. Except for an applicant who submits an application for the
45 issuance of a license pursuant to subparagraph (7) or (10) of



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paragraph (a) of subsection 1 of NRS 391.019 ~~H~~ or section 1 of this act, 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. 5. Section 5 of chapter 151, Statutes of Nevada 2007, at page 504, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 5. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2007, and expires by limitation on June 30, ~~2011.~~ 2009.

Sec. 6. The Commission on Professional Standards in Education shall, on or before December 31, 2014, submit to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislative Committee on Education a report which includes, without limitation:

1. A general assessment of the program for the alternative licensure of teachers established by section 1 of this act;

2. The number of applicants for licensure under the provisions of section 1 of this act;

3. The number of teachers who are licensed under those provisions and who have been subsequently employed by a school district or charter school in this State;

4. The assessment of those teachers by the principals of the schools at which the teachers have been employed; and

5. Any recommendations for legislation that may improve the effectiveness of the program for alternative licensure.

Sec. 7. 1. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2009.

2. Sections 1 to 4, inclusive, and 6 of this act expire by limitation on June 30, 2015.

