

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 230—COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

MARCH 3, 2011

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Authorizes an alternative route to licensure for teachers and administrators. (BDR 34-738)

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 educational personnel; requiring the Commission on Professional Standards in Education to adopt regulations prescribing the qualifications for licensing teachers and administrators pursuant to an alternative route to licensure; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 Existing law requires the Commission on Professional Standards in Education
2 to adopt regulations prescribing the qualifications for licensing teachers and other
3 educational personnel in this State. The regulations govern the issuance of a regular
4 license and a special qualifications license. (NRS 391.019) The regulations are
5 subject to the approval of the State Board of Education, which has the authority to
6 disapprove any regulation adopted by the Commission for certain specified reasons.
7 (NRS 391.027) **Section 1** of this bill requires the Commission to adopt regulations
8 prescribing the qualifications for licensing teachers and administrators pursuant to
9 an alternative route to licensure and sets forth certain requirements that must be
10 specified in those regulations, including: (1) that the required education and
11 training may be provided by any qualified provider that has been approved by the
12 Commission, including institutions of higher education and other providers that
13 operate independently of an institution of higher education; (2) that the education
14 and training required under the alternative route to licensure may be completed in 2
15 years or less; and (3) that, upon completion by a person of the education and
16 training required under the alternative route to licensure and the satisfaction of all
17 other requirements for licensure, the person must be issued a regular license.
18 **Section 5** of this bill requires the Commission to adopt the regulations on or before
19 December 31, 2011.



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 ~~is~~

~~—(a) Shall~~ *shall* adopt regulations:

~~[(1)]~~ *(a) 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
those licenses. The regulations ~~must~~ :*

*(1) Must include, without limitation, the qualifications for
licensing teachers and administrators pursuant to an alternative
route to licensure which provides that the required education and
training may be provided by any qualified provider that has been
approved by the Commission, including, without limitation,
institutions of higher education and other providers that operate
independently of an institution of higher education. The
regulations adopted pursuant to this subparagraph must:*

*(I) Establish the requirements for approval as a
qualified provider;*

*(II) Require a qualified provider to be selective in its
acceptance of students;*

*(III) Require a qualified provider to provide supervised,
school-based experiences and ongoing support for its students,
such as mentoring and coaching;*

*(IV) Significantly limit the amount of course work
required or provide for the waiver of required course work for
students who achieve certain scores on tests;*

*(V) Allow for the completion in 2 years or less of the
education and training required under the alternative route to
licensure; and*

*(VI) Upon the completion by a person of the education
and training required under the alternative route to licensure and
the satisfaction of all other requirements for licensure, provide for
the issuance of a regular license to the person pursuant to the
provisions of this chapter and the regulations adopted pursuant to
this chapter.*

(2) Must not prescribe qualifications which are more
stringent than the qualifications set forth in NRS 391.0315 for a
licensed teacher who applies for an additional license in accordance
with that section.

~~[(2)]~~ *(b) Identifying fields of specialization in teaching
which require the specialized training of teachers.*



~~[(3)]~~ (c) 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)]~~ (d) Setting forth the educational requirements a teacher must satisfy to qualify for an endorsement in each field of specialization.

~~[(5)]~~ (e) Setting forth the qualifications and requirements for obtaining a license or endorsement to teach American Sign Language, including, without limitation, being registered with the Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to NRS 656A.100 to engage in the practice of interpreting in an educational setting.

~~[(6)]~~ (f) Requiring teachers and other educational personnel to be registered with the Aging and Disability Services Division pursuant to NRS 656A.100 to engage in the practice of interpreting in an educational setting if they:

~~[(H)]~~ (I) Provide instruction or other educational services; and

~~[(H)]~~ (2) Concurrently engage in the practice of interpreting, as defined in NRS 656A.060.

~~[(7)]~~ (g) Providing for the issuance and renewal of a special qualifications license to an applicant who holds a bachelor's degree, 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:

~~[(H)]~~ (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

~~[(H)]~~ (2) At least 5 years of experience working in a field for which the applicant will provide instruction in a classroom.

➤ An applicant for licensure pursuant to this ~~[(subparagraph)]~~ *paragraph* who holds a bachelor's degree must submit proof of participation in a program of student teaching or mentoring or agree to participate in a program of mentoring or courses of pedagogy for the first 2 years of the applicant's employment as a teacher with a school district or charter school.

~~[(8)]~~ (h) Requiring an applicant for a special qualifications license to:

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

~~[(H)]~~ (2) Hold a valid license issued by a professional licensing board of any state that is directly related to the subject area



1 of the bachelor's degree, master's degree or doctoral degree held by
2 the applicant.

3 ~~[(9)]~~ (i) Setting forth the subject areas that may be taught by
4 a person who holds a special qualifications license, based upon the
5 subject area of the bachelor's degree, master's degree or doctoral
6 degree held by that person.

7 ~~[(10)]~~ (j) Providing for the issuance and renewal of a special
8 qualifications license to an applicant who:

9 ~~[(A)]~~ (1) Holds a bachelor's degree or a graduate degree
10 from an accredited college or university in the field for which the
11 applicant will be providing instruction;

12 ~~[(H)]~~ (2) Is not licensed to teach public school in another
13 state;

14 ~~[(H)]~~ (3) Has at least 5 years of experience teaching with
15 satisfactory evaluations at a school that is accredited by a national or
16 regional accrediting agency recognized by the United States
17 Department of Education; and

18 ~~[(IV)]~~ (4) Submits proof of participation in a program of
19 student teaching or mentoring or agrees to participate in a program
20 of mentoring for the first year of the applicant's employment as a
21 teacher with a school district or charter school if the applicant holds
22 a graduate degree or, if the applicant holds a bachelor's degree,
23 submits proof of participation in a program of student teaching or
24 mentoring or agrees to participate in a program of mentoring or
25 courses of pedagogy for the first 2 years of his or her employment as
26 a teacher with a school district or charter school.

27 ➔ An applicant for licensure pursuant to this ~~[(subparagraph)]~~
28 *paragraph* is exempt from each examination required by NRS
29 391.021 if the applicant successfully passed the examination in
30 another state.

31 ~~[(b) May]~~

32 *2. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 391.027, the*
33 *Commission may* adopt such other regulations as it deems necessary
34 for its own government or to carry out its duties.

35 ~~[(2)]~~ 3. Any regulation which increases the amount of
36 education, training or experience required for licensing:

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

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

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



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~~3-1~~ 4. A person who is licensed pursuant to ~~subparagraph (7)~~
~~or (10) of~~ paragraph ~~(a)~~ (g) or (j) 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 the person 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 391.021 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.021 Except as otherwise provided in ~~subparagraph (10)~~
~~of~~ paragraph ~~(a)~~ (j) of subsection 1 of NRS 391.019 and NRS 391.027, 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 the applicant's knowledge of each specific subject he or she 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.

➔ The provisions of this section do not prohibit the Commission from adopting regulations pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 391.032 that provide an exemption from the examinations for teachers and other educational personnel from another state if the Commission determines that the examinations required for initial licensure for teachers and other educational personnel in that state are comparable to the examinations required for initial licensure in this State.

Sec. 3. 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 or her 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 or she 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 or her major or minor field of preparation or in both fields in any secondary school. He or she may teach only in



1 these fields unless an exception is approved pursuant to regulations
2 adopted by the Commission.

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

6 5. A special license designated as a special qualifications
7 license, which authorizes the holder to teach only in the grades and
8 subject areas designated in the license. A special qualifications
9 license is valid for 3 years and may be renewed in accordance with
10 the applicable regulations of the Commission adopted pursuant to
11 ~~subparagraph (7) or (10) of~~ paragraph ~~((a))~~ *(g) or (j)* of subsection
12 1 of NRS 391.019.

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

14 391.037 1. The State Board shall:

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

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

23 2. Except for an applicant who submits an application for the
24 issuance of a license pursuant to subparagraph ~~((7) or (10))~~ *(1)* of
25 paragraph (a) *or paragraph (g) or (j)* of subsection 1 of NRS
26 391.019, an applicant for a license as a teacher or administrator or to
27 perform some other educational function must submit with his or
28 her application, in the form prescribed by the Superintendent of
29 Public Instruction, proof that the applicant has satisfactorily
30 completed a course of study and training approved by the State
31 Board pursuant to subsection 1.

32 **Sec. 5.** The Commission on Professional Standards in
33 Education shall, on or before December 31, 2011, adopt the
34 regulations required by the provisions of subparagraph (1) of
35 paragraph (a) of subsection 1 of NRS 391.019, as amended by
36 section 1 of this act.

37 **Sec. 6.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2011.

