

SENATE BILL NO. 104—COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION)

PREFILED FEBRUARY 7, 2017

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to teachers and other educational personnel. (BDR 34-329)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.
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; revising provisions relating to the qualifications for the issuance of a license to teach middle school, junior high school or high school education; revising provisions relating to reciprocal licensure; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law requires the Commission on Professional Standards in Education to adopt regulations prescribing the qualifications for the licensing of teachers and other educational personnel. (NRS 391.019) **Section 1** of this bill requires that the regulations establishing these qualifications must provide for an applicant for a license to teach middle school, junior high school or high school to demonstrate proficiency in a field of specialization or area of concentration through the completion of course work or by passing a subject matter competency examination prescribed by the Department of Education.

Existing law requires the Commission to adopt regulations governing examinations for the initial licensing of teachers and requires that such examinations include as subject matter the laws of Nevada relating to schools, the Constitution of the State of Nevada and the Constitution of the United States. Existing law also authorizes the Commission to provide an exemption from such examinations for teachers and other educational personnel from another state under certain circumstances. (NRS 391.021, 391.032) **Sections 2 and 3** of this bill provide that teachers and educational personnel from another state who obtain a reciprocal license are not required to take the examinations for initial licensing that test the ability of the applicant to teach and the applicant's knowledge of the specific subject the applicant proposes to teach. **Section 2** also authorizes the Commission to adopt regulations which provide that teachers and educational



21 personnel from another state may obtain an exemption from the requirement to take
22 the examination on the laws of Nevada relating to schools, the Constitution of the
23 State of Nevada and the Constitution of the United States.

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

1 **Section 1.** NRS 391.019 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 391.019 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 391.027,
3 the Commission shall adopt regulations:

4 (a) Prescribing the qualifications for licensing teachers and other
5 educational personnel, including, without limitation, the
6 qualifications for a license to teach middle school or junior high
7 school education, and the procedures for the issuance and renewal of
8 those licenses. The regulations:

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 (VI) Provide that a person who has completed the
31 education and training required under the alternative route to
32 licensure and who has satisfied all other requirements for licensure
33 may apply for a regular license pursuant to sub-subparagraph (VII)
34 regardless of whether the person has received an offer of
35 employment from a school district, charter school or private school;
36 and

37 (VII) Upon the completion by a person of the education
38 and training required under the alternative route to licensure and the



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1 satisfaction of all other requirements for licensure, provide for the
2 issuance of a regular license to the person pursuant to the provisions
3 of this chapter and the regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter.

4 (2) *Must provide that an applicant for a license to teach*
5 *middle school, junior high school or high school may demonstrate*
6 *proficiency in a field of specialization or area of concentration*
7 *through the completion of course work or by passing a subject*
8 *matter competency examination prescribed by the Department.*

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

13 (b) Identifying fields of specialization in teaching which require
14 the specialized training of teachers.

15 (c) Except as otherwise provided in NRS 391.125, requiring
16 teachers to obtain from the Department an endorsement in a field of
17 specialization to be eligible to teach in that field of specialization,
18 including, without limitation, an endorsement to teach English as a
19 second language based upon the recommendations of the English
20 Mastery Council pursuant to NRS 388.411.

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

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

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

33 (1) Provide instruction or other educational services; and

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

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

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



(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 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.

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

(1) Pass each examination required by *subsection 1 of NRS 391.021* for the specific subject or subjects in which the applicant will provide instruction; or

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

(i) 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 bachelor's degree, master's degree or doctoral degree held by that person.

(j) Providing for the issuance and renewal of a special qualifications license to an applicant who:

(1) Holds a bachelor's degree or a graduate degree from an accredited college or university in the field for which the applicant will be providing instruction;

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

(3) 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

(4) 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 the applicant's employment as a teacher with a school district or charter school if the applicant holds a graduate degree or, if the applicant holds a bachelor's degree, submits proof of participation in a program of student teaching or mentoring or agrees to participate in a program of mentoring or courses of pedagogy for the first 2 years of his or her employment as a teacher with a school district or charter school.

➔ An applicant for licensure pursuant to this paragraph is exempt from each examination required by *subsection 1 of NRS 391.021* if the applicant successfully passed the examination in another state.

(k) Prescribing course work on parental involvement and family engagement. The Commission shall work in cooperation with the Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement created by



1 NRS 385.630 in developing the regulations required by this
2 paragraph.

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

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

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

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

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

16 4. A person who is licensed pursuant to paragraph (g) or (j) of
17 subsection 1:

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

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

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

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

29 391.021 **1.** Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (j) of
30 subsection 1 of NRS 391.019 and NRS 391.027, the Commission
31 shall adopt regulations governing examinations for the initial
32 licensing of teachers and other educational personnel. ~~The~~ *In*
33 *adopting such regulations, the Commission must ensure that the*
34 *examinations ~~must~~ test the ability of the applicant to teach and the*
35 *applicant's knowledge of each specific subject he or she proposes to*
36 *teach. ~~Each~~ Teachers and educational personnel from another*
37 *state who obtain a reciprocal license pursuant to NRS 391.032 are*
38 *not required to take the examinations for the initial licensing of*
39 *teachers and other educational personnel described in this*
40 *subsection.*

41 **2.** *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, in addition to*
42 *the examinations for the initial licensing of teachers and other*
43 *educational personnel governed by the regulations adopted by the*
44 *Commission pursuant to subsection 1, an applicant for initial*



licensure must successfully pass an examination ~~must include the following subjects:~~

~~1.) on:~~

(a) The laws of Nevada relating to schools;

~~(b) The Constitution of the State of Nevada; and~~

~~(c) The Constitution of the United States.~~

~~3. The provisions of this section do not prohibit the Commission from adopting~~ *may adopt* ~~regulations pursuant to subsection 2 of NRS 391.032 that~~ *which* ~~provide an exemption from the examinations for~~ *that* ~~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.~~ *who obtain a reciprocal license pursuant to NRS 391.032 may obtain an exemption from the requirement to take the examination required by subsection 2.*

Sec. 3. NRS 391.032 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.032 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 391.027, the Commission shall:

(a) ~~Consider and may adopt~~ *Adopt* regulations which provide for the issuance of ~~conditional~~ *provisional* licenses to teachers and other educational personnel before completion of all courses of study or other requirements for a license in this State.

(b) Adopt regulations which provide for the reciprocal licensure of educational personnel from other states including, without limitation, for the reciprocal licensure of persons who hold a license to teach special education. Such regulations must include, without limitation, provisions for the reciprocal licensure of persons who obtained a license pursuant to an alternative route to licensure which the Commission determines is as rigorous or more rigorous than the alternative route to licensure prescribed pursuant to subparagraph (1) of paragraph (a) of subsection 1 of NRS 391.019.

2. ~~The regulations adopted pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 1 may provide an exemption from the examinations required for initial licensure 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.~~

~~3.)~~ A person who is issued a ~~conditional~~ *provisional* license must complete all courses of study and other requirements for a license in this State which is not ~~conditional~~ *provisional* within 3 years after the date on which a ~~conditional~~ *provisional* license is issued.



1 **Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2017.

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