

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 284—ASSEMBLYWOMAN MONROE-MORENO

MARCH 18, 2019

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing the alternative route to licensure of certain teachers who teach pupils with certain disabilities. (BDR 34-1010)

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; revising provisions governing the alternative route to licensure of certain teachers who teach special education; 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 licensing teachers and administrators pursuant to an alternative route to licensure. (NRS 391.019) **Section 1** of this bill requires those regulations to allow for the completion of any education and training necessary to teach pupils who are deaf, hard of hearing or visually impaired under the alternative route to licensure.

Existing law also requires the Commission to adopt regulations which provide for the issuance of provisional licenses to teachers and other educational personnel before completion of all courses of study or other requirements for a license. (NRS 391.032) **Section 2** of this bill requires the Commission to adopt regulations providing for the issuance of a provisional license to certain teachers while those teachers complete any education and training necessary to teach pupils who are deaf, hard of hearing or visually impaired.

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 shall adopt regulations:



(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:

(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 which 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;

(VI) *Allow for the completion of any education and training necessary to teach pupils who are deaf, hard of hearing or visually impaired under the alternative route to licensure;*

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

~~(VII)~~ (VIII) 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 require an applicant for a license to teach middle school or junior high school education or secondary education to demonstrate proficiency in a field of specialization or area of



1 concentration by successfully completing course work prescribed by
2 the Department or completing a subject matter competency
3 examination prescribed by the Department with a score deemed
4 satisfactory.

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

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

11 (c) Except as otherwise provided in NRS 391.125, requiring
12 teachers to obtain from the Department an endorsement in a field of
13 specialization to be eligible to teach in that field of specialization,
14 including, without limitation, an endorsement to teach English as a
15 second language.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

42 ➤ An applicant for licensure pursuant to this paragraph who holds a
43 bachelor's degree must submit proof of participation in a program of
44 student teaching or mentoring or agree to participate in a program of
45 mentoring or courses of pedagogy for the first 2 years of the



1 applicant's employment as a teacher with a school district or charter
2 school.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 (4) Submits proof of participation in a program of student
26 teaching or mentoring or agrees to participate in a program of
27 mentoring for the first year of the applicant's employment as a
28 teacher with a school district or charter school if the applicant holds
29 a graduate degree or, if the applicant holds a bachelor's degree,
30 submits proof of participation in a program of student teaching or
31 mentoring or agrees to participate in a program of mentoring or
32 courses of pedagogy for the first 2 years of his or her employment as
33 a teacher with a school district or charter school.

34 ➡ An applicant for licensure pursuant to this paragraph is exempt
35 from each examination required by NRS 391.021 if the applicant
36 successfully passed the examination in another state.

37 (k) Prescribing course work on parental involvement and family
38 engagement. The Commission shall work in cooperation with the
39 Office of Parental Involvement and Family Engagement created by
40 NRS 385.630 in developing the regulations required by this
41 paragraph.

42 (l) Establishing the requirements for obtaining an endorsement
43 on the license of a teacher, administrator or other educational
44 personnel in cultural competency.



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

3. 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.

4. A person who is licensed pursuant to paragraph (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 391.032 is hereby amended to read as follows:

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

(a) Adopt regulations which provide for the issuance of provisional licenses to teachers and other educational personnel before completion of all courses of study or other requirements for a license in this State. *Such regulations must authorize the issuance of a provisional license to teach special education that is valid for 3 years if the teacher is:*

(1) Certified by a national board; or

(2) A long-term substitute teacher who has earned a bachelor's degree and is working to complete education and training necessary to teach pupils who are deaf, hard of hearing or visually impaired.

(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



1 the Department determines is as rigorous or more rigorous than the
2 alternative route to licensure prescribed pursuant to subparagraph
3 (1) of paragraph (a) of subsection 1 of NRS 391.019.

4 2. A person who is issued a provisional license must complete
5 all courses of study and other requirements for a license in this State
6 which is not provisional within 3 years after the date on which a
7 provisional license is issued.

8 **Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective:

9 1. Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any
10 regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative
11 tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and

12 2. On October 1, 2019, for all other purposes.

