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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION

H. F. No. 171

01/24/2013 Authored by Ward, J.E.,
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Education Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to education; repealing the requirement that licensed K-12 teachers pass
1.3 a basic skills examination in reading, writing, and mathematics as a condition
1.4 for receiving a teaching license; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, sections
1.5 122A.09, subdivision 4; 122A.18, subdivisions 2, 2a; 122A.23, subdivision 2;
1.6 122A.245, subdivisions 1, 7.

1.7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.8 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 122A.09, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

1.9 Subd. 4. **License and rules.** (a) The board must adopt rules to license public school
1.10 teachers and interns subject to chapter 14.

1.11 ~~(b) The board must adopt rules requiring a person to pass a skills examination in~~
1.12 ~~reading, writing, and mathematics as a requirement for initial teacher licensure. Such~~
1.13 ~~rules must require college and universities offering a board-approved teacher preparation~~
1.14 ~~program to provide remedial assistance to persons who did not achieve a qualifying score~~
1.15 ~~on the skills examination, including those for whom English is a second language.~~

1.16 (e) The board must adopt rules to approve teacher preparation programs. The board,
1.17 upon the request of a postsecondary student preparing for teacher licensure or a licensed
1.18 graduate of a teacher preparation program, shall assist in resolving a dispute between the
1.19 person and a postsecondary institution providing a teacher preparation program when the
1.20 dispute involves an institution's recommendation for licensure affecting the person or the
1.21 person's credentials. At the board's discretion, assistance may include the application
1.22 of chapter 14.

1.23 ~~(d)~~ (c) The board must provide the leadership and adopt rules for the redesign of
1.24 teacher education programs to implement a research based, results-oriented curriculum
1.25 that focuses on the skills teachers need in order to be effective. The board shall implement

2.1 new systems of teacher preparation program evaluation to assure program effectiveness
2.2 based on proficiency of graduates in demonstrating attainment of program outcomes.
2.3 Teacher preparation programs including alternative teacher preparation programs
2.4 under section 122A.245, among other programs, must include a content-specific,
2.5 board-approved, performance-based assessment that measures teacher candidates in three
2.6 areas: planning for instruction and assessment; engaging students and supporting learning;
2.7 and assessing student learning.

2.8 ~~(e)~~ (d) The board must adopt rules requiring candidates for initial licenses to pass an
2.9 examination of general pedagogical knowledge and examinations of licensure-specific
2.10 teaching skills. The rules shall be effective by September 1, 2001. The rules under this
2.11 paragraph also must require candidates for initial licenses to teach prekindergarten or
2.12 elementary students to pass, as part of the examination of licensure-specific teaching
2.13 skills, test items assessing the candidates' knowledge, skill, and ability in comprehensive,
2.14 scientifically based reading instruction under section 122A.06, subdivision 4, and their
2.15 knowledge and understanding of the foundations of reading development, the development
2.16 of reading comprehension, and reading assessment and instruction, and their ability to
2.17 integrate that knowledge and understanding.

2.18 ~~(f)~~ (e) The board must adopt rules requiring teacher educators to work directly with
2.19 elementary or secondary school teachers in elementary or secondary schools to obtain
2.20 periodic exposure to the elementary or secondary teaching environment.

2.21 ~~(g)~~ (f) The board must grant licenses to interns and to candidates for initial licenses
2.22 based on appropriate professional competencies that are aligned with the board's licensing
2.23 system and students' diverse learning needs. The board must include these licenses in a
2.24 statewide differentiated licensing system that creates new leadership roles for successful
2.25 experienced teachers premised on a collaborative professional culture dedicated to meeting
2.26 students' diverse learning needs in the 21st century and formalizes mentoring and induction
2.27 for newly licensed teachers that is provided through a teacher support framework.

2.28 ~~(h)~~ (g) The board must design and implement an assessment system which requires
2.29 a candidate for an initial license and first continuing license to demonstrate the abilities
2.30 necessary to perform selected, representative teaching tasks at appropriate levels.

2.31 ~~(i)~~ (h) The board must receive recommendations from local committees as
2.32 established by the board for the renewal of teaching licenses.

2.33 ~~(j)~~ (i) The board must grant life licenses to those who qualify according to
2.34 requirements established by the board, and suspend or revoke licenses pursuant to sections
2.35 122A.20 and 214.10. The board must not establish any expiration date for application
2.36 for life licenses.

3.1 ~~(k)~~ (j) The board must adopt rules that require all licensed teachers who are renewing
 3.2 their continuing license to include in their renewal requirements further preparation in
 3.3 the areas of using positive behavior interventions and in accommodating, modifying, and
 3.4 adapting curricula, materials, and strategies to appropriately meet the needs of individual
 3.5 students and ensure adequate progress toward the state's graduation rule.

3.6 ~~(h)~~ (k) In adopting rules to license public school teachers who provide health-related
 3.7 services for disabled children, the board shall adopt rules consistent with license or
 3.8 registration requirements of the commissioner of health and the health-related boards who
 3.9 license personnel who perform similar services outside of the school.

3.10 ~~(m)~~ (l) The board must adopt rules that require all licensed teachers who are
 3.11 renewing their continuing license to include in their renewal requirements further reading
 3.12 preparation, consistent with section 122A.06, subdivision 4. The rules do not take effect
 3.13 until they are approved by law. Teachers who do not provide direct instruction including, at
 3.14 least, counselors, school psychologists, school nurses, school social workers, audiovisual
 3.15 directors and coordinators, and recreation personnel are exempt from this section.

3.16 ~~(n)~~ (m) The board must adopt rules that require all licensed teachers who are
 3.17 renewing their continuing license to include in their renewal requirements further
 3.18 preparation in understanding the key warning signs of early-onset mental illness in
 3.19 children and adolescents.

3.20 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment
 3.21 and applies to any teacher candidate who has not yet passed the basic skills exam.

3.22 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 122A.18, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

3.23 Subd. 2. **Teacher and support personnel qualifications.** (a) The Board of
 3.24 Teaching must issue licenses under its jurisdiction to persons the board finds to be
 3.25 qualified and competent for their respective positions.

3.26 ~~(b) The board must require a person to pass an examination of skills in reading,
 3.27 writing, and mathematics before being granted an initial teaching license to provide direct
 3.28 instruction to pupils in prekindergarten, elementary, secondary, or special education
 3.29 programs. The board must require colleges and universities offering a board approved
 3.30 teacher preparation program to provide remedial assistance that includes a formal
 3.31 diagnostic component to persons enrolled in their institution who did not achieve a
 3.32 qualifying score on the skills examination, including those for whom English is a
 3.33 second language. The colleges and universities must provide assistance in the specific
 3.34 academic areas of deficiency in which the person did not achieve a qualifying score. The
 3.35 Board of Teaching shall report annually to the education committees of the legislature~~

4.1 ~~on the total number of teacher candidates during the most recent school year taking the~~
 4.2 ~~skills examination, the number who achieve a qualifying score on the examination, the~~
 4.3 ~~number who do not achieve a qualifying score on the examination, the distribution of all~~
 4.4 ~~candidates' scores, the number of candidates who have taken the examination at least once~~
 4.5 ~~before, and the number of candidates who have taken the examination at least once before~~
 4.6 ~~and achieve a qualifying score.~~

4.7 (e) The Board of Teaching must grant continuing licenses only to those persons who
 4.8 have met board criteria for granting a continuing license, ~~which includes passing the skills~~
 4.9 ~~examination in reading, writing, and mathematics.~~

4.10 ~~(d)~~ (c) All colleges and universities approved by the board of teaching to prepare
 4.11 persons for teacher licensure must include in their teacher preparation programs a common
 4.12 core of teaching knowledge and skills to be acquired by all persons recommended
 4.13 for teacher licensure. This common core shall meet the standards developed by the
 4.14 interstate new teacher assessment and support consortium in its 1992 "model standards for
 4.15 beginning teacher licensing and development." Amendments to standards adopted under
 4.16 this paragraph are covered by chapter 14. The board of teaching shall report annually to
 4.17 the education committees of the legislature on the performance of teacher candidates
 4.18 on common core assessments of knowledge and skills under this paragraph during the
 4.19 most recent school year.

4.20 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment
 4.21 and applies to any teacher candidate who has not yet passed the basic skills exam.

4.22 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 122A.18, subdivision 2a, is amended to read:

4.23 Subd. 2a. **Reading strategies.** (a) All colleges and universities approved by the
 4.24 Board of Teaching to prepare persons for classroom teacher licensure must include in their
 4.25 teacher preparation programs research-based best practices in reading, consistent with
 4.26 section 122A.06, subdivision 4, that enable the licensure candidate to know how to teach
 4.27 reading in the candidate's content areas. These colleges and universities also must prepare
 4.28 candidates for initial licenses to teach prekindergarten or elementary students for the
 4.29 assessment of reading instruction portion of the examination of licensure-specific teaching
 4.30 skills under section 122A.09, subdivision 4, paragraph ~~(e)~~ (d).

4.31 (b) Board-approved teacher preparation programs for teachers of elementary
 4.32 education must require instruction in the application of comprehensive, scientifically
 4.33 based, and balanced reading instruction programs that:

5.1 (1) teach students to read using foundational knowledge, practices, and strategies
 5.2 consistent with section 122A.06, subdivision 4, so that all students will achieve continuous
 5.3 progress in reading; and

5.4 (2) teach specialized instruction in reading strategies, interventions, and remediations
 5.5 that enable students of all ages and proficiency levels to become proficient readers.

5.6 (c) Nothing in this section limits the authority of a school district to select a school's
 5.7 reading program or curriculum.

5.8 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

5.9 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 122A.23, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

5.10 Subd. 2. **Applicants licensed in other states.** (a) Subject to the requirements of
 5.11 sections 122A.18, subdivision 8, and 123B.03, the Board of Teaching must issue a teaching
 5.12 license or a temporary teaching license under paragraphs (b) to (e) to an applicant who holds
 5.13 at least a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university and holds
 5.14 or held a similar out-of-state teaching license that requires the applicant to successfully
 5.15 complete a teacher preparation program approved by the issuing state, which includes
 5.16 field-specific teaching methods and student teaching or essentially equivalent experience.

5.17 (b) The Board of Teaching must issue a teaching license to an applicant who:

5.18 (1) successfully completed all exams and human relations preparation components
 5.19 required by the Board of Teaching; and

5.20 (2) holds or held an out-of-state teaching license to teach the same content field and
 5.21 grade levels if the scope of the out-of-state license is no more than one grade level less
 5.22 than a similar Minnesota license.

5.23 (c) The Board of Teaching, consistent with board rules and paragraph (h), must
 5.24 issue up to three one-year temporary teaching licenses to an applicant who holds or held
 5.25 an out-of-state teaching license to teach the same content field and grade levels, where
 5.26 the scope of the out-of-state license is no more than one grade level less than a similar
 5.27 Minnesota license, but has not successfully completed all exams and human relations
 5.28 preparation components required by the Board of Teaching.

5.29 (d) The Board of Teaching, consistent with board rules, must issue up to three
 5.30 one-year temporary teaching licenses to an applicant who:

5.31 (1) successfully completed all exams and human relations preparation components
 5.32 required by the Board of Teaching; and

5.33 (2) holds or held an out-of-state teaching license to teach the same content field
 5.34 and grade levels, where the scope of the out-of-state license is no more than one grade

6.1 level less than a similar Minnesota license, but has not completed field-specific teaching
6.2 methods or student teaching or equivalent experience.

6.3 The applicant may complete field-specific teaching methods and student teaching
6.4 or equivalent experience by successfully participating in a one-year school district
6.5 mentorship program consistent with board-adopted standards of effective practice and
6.6 Minnesota graduation requirements.

6.7 (e) The Board of Teaching must issue a temporary teaching license for a term of
6.8 up to three years only in the content field or grade levels specified in the out-of-state
6.9 license to an applicant who:

6.10 (1) successfully completed all exams and human relations preparation components
6.11 required by the Board of Teaching; and

6.12 (2) holds or held an out-of-state teaching license where the out-of-state license is
6.13 more limited in the content field or grade levels than a similar Minnesota license.

6.14 (f) The Board of Teaching must not issue to an applicant more than three one-year
6.15 temporary teaching licenses under this subdivision.

6.16 (g) The Board of Teaching must not issue a license under this subdivision if the
6.17 applicant has not attained the additional degrees, credentials, or licenses required in a
6.18 particular licensure field.

6.19 ~~(h) The Board of Teaching must require an applicant for a teaching license or a~~
6.20 ~~temporary teaching license under this subdivision to pass a skills examination in reading,~~
6.21 ~~writing, and mathematics before the board issues the license.~~

6.22 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment
6.23 and applies to any teacher candidate who has not yet passed the basic skills exam.

6.24 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 122A.245, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

6.25 Subdivision 1. **Requirements.** (a) To improve academic excellence, improve ethnic
6.26 and cultural diversity in the classroom, and close the academic achievement gap, the
6.27 Board of Teaching must approve qualified teacher preparation programs under this section
6.28 that are a means to acquire a two-year limited-term license, which the board may renew
6.29 one time for an additional one-year term, and to prepare for acquiring a standard license.
6.30 The following entities are eligible to participate under this section:

6.31 (1) a school district or charter school that forms a partnership with a college or
6.32 university that has a board-approved alternative teacher preparation program; or

6.33 (2) a school district or charter school, after consulting with a college or university
6.34 with a board-approved teacher preparation program, that forms a partnership with a

7.1 nonprofit corporation organized under chapter 317A for an education-related purpose that
 7.2 has a board-approved teacher preparation program.

7.3 (b) Before participating in this program, a candidate must:

7.4 (1) have a bachelor's degree with a 3.0 or higher grade point average unless the
 7.5 board waives the grade point average requirement based on board-adopted criteria; and

7.6 (2) ~~pass the reading, writing, and mathematics skills examination under section~~
 7.7 ~~122A.09, subdivision 4, paragraph (b); and~~

7.8 ~~(3) obtain qualifying scores on applicable board-approved rigorous content area and~~
 7.9 ~~pedagogy examinations under section 122A.09, subdivision 4, paragraph (e) (d).~~

7.10 (c) The Board of Teaching must issue a two-year limited-term license to a person
 7.11 who enrolls in an alternative teacher preparation program.

7.12 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment
 7.13 and applies to any teacher candidate who has not yet passed the basic skills exam.

7.14 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 122A.245, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

7.15 Subd. 7. **Standard license.** The Board of Teaching must issue a standard
 7.16 license to an otherwise qualified teacher candidate under this section who successfully
 7.17 performs throughout a program under this section, successfully completes all required
 7.18 skills, pedagogy, and content area examinations under section 122A.09, subdivision 4,
 7.19 paragraphs (a) and ~~(e)~~ (d), and is recommended for licensure under subdivision 5 or
 7.20 successfully demonstrates to the board qualifications for licensure under subdivision 6.

7.21 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.